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BJP'S FIRST-EVER BENGAL GOVT OATH ON MAY 9 | LEGISLATIVE LEADER DECISION ON MAY 8

GUV PUTS END TO MAMATA ERA

Guv dissolves Mamata cabinet; Banerjee no longer Bengal CM; Dramatic move comes after she 'refused' to resign despite mounting pressure after electoral setback

KOLKATA

Governor RN Ravi has formally dissolved the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, effectively ending Mamata Banerjee's tenure as the chief minister.

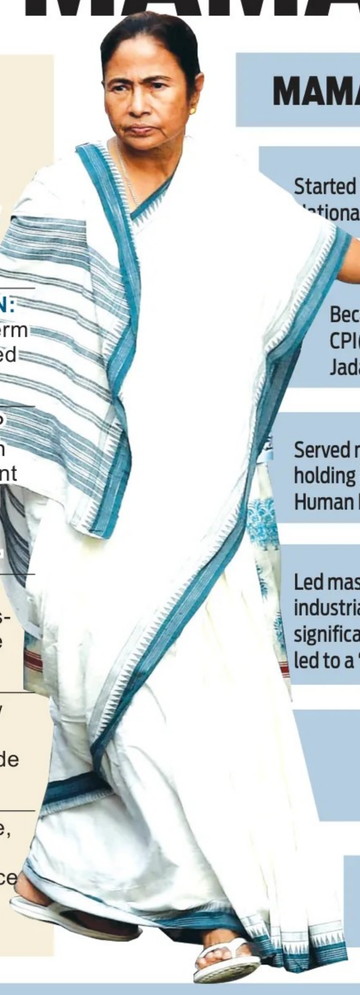
The move, implemented under Clause 2 of Article 174 of the Constitution of India, was announced in an official notification issued on Thursday. "I hereby dissolve the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal with effect from 7th May, 2026," the Governor stated in the notice.

The current assembly was constituted in May 2021 after the Trinamool Congress, under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee, returned to power for the third consecutive term in the state. The dissolution marks the formal completion of the tenure of the outgoing assembly, following the recently concluded two-phase elections. The notification was issued by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs.

The dissolution comes amid a political standoff after Banerjee refused to step down following the BJP's sweep, alleging irregularities in the elections. She claimed that the BJP's decisive performance in West Bengal was a result of vote manipulation and tampering of EVMs. She also accused the ECI of colluding with the BJP to unseat her government.

BENGAL STANDOFF

- **DISSOLUTION AUTHORITY:** The Governor invoked Article 174(2)(b) of the Constitution to dissolve the assembly after the conclusion of the election process.
- **REASON FOR DISSOLUTION:** It comes after the assembly term of the TMC government expired on Thursday.
- **ELECTION RESULT:** The BJP secured a decisive victory with 207 seats, marking a significant shift in West Bengal's political landscape, ending the TMC's consecutive terms since 2011.
- **IMMEDIATE GOVERNANCE:** The state is under the administration of the Governor's office during the transition period.
- **GOVT FORMATION:** The new chief minister is scheduled to take oath at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on May 9.
- **OUTCOME:** Mamata Banerjee, having refused to resign, was functionally removed from office through the dissolution of the assembly.



MAMATA: Early career and rise

CONGRESS ROOTS
Started in the 1970s within the student wing of the Indian National Congress (Chhatra Parishad).

1984
Became one of India's youngest MPs by defeating CPI(M) heavyweight Somnath Chatterjee in the Jadavpur constituency.

1999, 2009
Served multiple times as a Union Cabinet Minister, holding key portfolios including Railways, Coal, and Human Resource Development.

2006, 2008
Led massive protests against land acquisition for industrial projects in Singur/Nandigram, which significantly strengthened her political standing and led to a "mass leader" image.

2011
Ended 34 years of Communist Party of India (Marxist) rule in West Bengal, bringing the TMC-Congress alliance to power.

2011, 2026
Served consecutive terms as the chief minister of West Bengal.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF?

2013: Death of another PA
- **Pradip Jha**, Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant during his years in the Trinamool, died under circumstances in Purba Medinipur district. But the case did not trigger a political controversy at that time.

2018: Security officer found dead
- **Subhabrata Chakraborty**, a State Armed Police constable posted as Adhikari's personal security officer (PSO), was found dead at a police. barrack in Kanthi of Purba Medinipur.

2021: Death of personal aide
- **Pulak Lahiri**, another personal aide to Adhikari, was found dead under unusual circumstances in 2021, but no conclusive findings establishing criminal conspiracy have been made public.

2026: Chandra shot deade
- **Chandranath Rath**, another close aide of Adhikari, was shot dead in North 24 Parganas on Wednesday night. The murder has triggered sharp political reactions.

> No matter how much we condemn the way this murder was carried out, it is not enough. He was killed because he was my aide and I defeated Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur. This could be the reason for his murder.
> —Suvendu Adhikari, BJP leader

Multiple teams set up to trace killers of Suvendu's aide

KOLKATA

West Bengal police have formed multiple teams to trace the men involved in the killing of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari's close aide Chandranath Rath, a senior officer said on Thursday.

Police are also probing whether contract killers were engaged in the murder of Rath (42), who was shot dead in North 24 Parganas district on Wednesday night.

A forensic team visited the spot on Thursday morning and collected samples, while officers of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) also joined the probe, he said.

Adhikari lost 4 aides in 13 years

KOLKATA

For over a decade, the BJP's giant slayer Suvendu Adhikari has lost several of his close aides and security personnel to unnatural deaths, the latest being the killing of his personal assistant Chandranath Rath.

Adhikari, who defeated Mamata Banerjee twice in elections and is now one of the frontrunners for the chief minister's post in West Bengal, has indicated that this is a political killing.

While no investigative agency has established any direct link between these incidents, the cases are increasingly being referenced together in West Bengal's political circles due to the recurring pattern of unnatural or controversial deaths.

Prove majority for oath: Guv to Vijay

CHENNAI

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay, who made a blockbuster debut in politics by breaking the DMK's and AIADMK's traditional duopoly, met Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar once again on Thursday as uncertainty continues over the formation of the next state government.

TVK, which emerged as the single-largest party with 108 seats in the 234-member assembly, had staked a claim to form the government on Wednesday. The Governor, however, was not convinced and asked Vijay to furnish proof that he could head a majority government.

At present, TVK holds 108 seats, while Congress, with 5 MLAs, has pledged support. Together, TVK+ Congress have 113 MLAs, still five short of the majority mark of 118 in the 234-member TN assembly.

As per TVK insiders, they are counting on backing from other key DMK allies - CPI (two seats), CPM (two seats), and VCK (two seats).

While DMK won only 59 seats, Stalin too lost his stronghold, Kolathur, to TVK. The AIADMK won 47 seats. Vijay was prepared for a quick swearing-in ceremony on Thursday, along with four senior colleagues, but the event has been delayed.

Meanwhile, speculation persists about possible realignments. Reports suggest that Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) informally explored the idea of Dravidian parties joining forces to form a government. TVK has 108 seats, DMK has 59, and AIADMK has 47. Stalin, however, signalled that the DMK would not immediately attempt to destabilise a potential TVK government.

Number game of House

- ASSEMLY STRENGTH 234
- MAJORITY MARK 118
- TVK 108
- CONGRESS 5
- NOW SHORT OF 5

Denying Vijay chance to form govt 'unfair': DKS

BENGALURU: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday termed as "unfair" Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar not inviting TVK chief Vijay to form the government in that state, despite emerging as the single largest party. He urged the Governor to allow TVK to form the government and prove its majority on the floor of the Assembly.

"In Tamil Nadu what the Governor is doing is not fair. He should allow the single largest party (TVK) to form the government and ask them to take the floor test," Shivakumar said.

Addressing reporters here, he said, in 2018, the then Governor invited B S Yediyurappa, leader of the BJP -- the single largest party with 104 seats in the 224-member assembly-- to form the government, despite the Congress-JD(S) alliance submitting a letter claiming a majority. However, unable to manage the numbers, Yediyurappa resigned in three days, before facing the floor test.

> In a democracy, one should look at the people's mandate. Give them an opportunity; if TVK fails, that's okay. There are instances of losing a vote of confidence even with one vote; didn't Vajpayee lose?
> —DK Shivakumar, DyCM

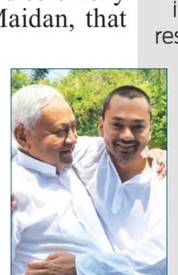
Citing the example of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shivakumar recalled that the then President gave him an opprtunity to prove a majority on the floor of the Lok Sabha. "TVK should be given an opportunity, it is unfair," he said.

From shadow to limelight: Nishant takes oath as Bihar min

PATNA

In a major expansion of the Cabinet of Bihar's first BJP-led government, JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar's son Nishant Kumar and 31 others took oath as ministers on Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Governor Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain administered oath at a grand ceremony held at Gandhi Maidan, that was also attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Health Minister JP Nadda and BJP president Nitin Nabin.



The BJP, which is the single largest party in the 243-member assembly with 89 MLAs, has 15 ministers, who took oath on Thursday. Most of the inductees were those who were part of the Nitish Kumar cabinet formed in last November after the NDA stormed back to power in the assembly polls.

The JD(U) is represented by 15 ministers, 13 of whom took the oath on the occasion.

The son who said No, then said Yes

The part that makes Nishant Kumar's entry into Bihar politics genuinely interesting is precisely the reluctance that preceded it. The 45-year-old engineering graduate had reportedly wanted to earn his spurs as a party worker first, before accepting any formal government post. That is not how political sons in Bihar typically behave, and it earned him a certain quiet respect even among those who remain sceptical of dynastic politics. Reports suggest the decision to join the government finally came after a late-night meeting with senior JD(U) leaders on Tuesday. Lalan Singh, one of the party's most trusted operators, had made the trip from Delhi specifically for those conversations. What was said behind closed doors has not been fully reported. What is known is that Nishant walked out of his father's residence the next morning as a man who had agreed to something he had been declining for weeks. His 'Sadbhavana Yatra', scheduled to continue on May 7, was cancelled due to the swearing-in and is set to resume from May 9.

1-YEAR OF OPERATION SINDOOR

'INDIA FORGIVES NOTHING'

NEW DELHI

India on Thursday marked the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, the large-scale military operation launched against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 civilian lives on April 22 last year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi changed his display picture on X to an image associated with Operation Sindoor, paying tribute to the courage and valour of the Indian armed forces. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also adopted the same display picture and shared a post commemorating the operation.

Rajnath Singh releases 'Op Sindoor' documentary

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday released Operation Sindoor documentary at Joint Commanders' Conference in Jaipur.

The defence minister also hailed the mission as a benchmark for modern warfare, citing its unmatched precision and seamless tri-services synergy The operation stands as a powerful symbol of national resolve and preparedness to deal with national security challenges, he said in a message.

Forces revamp combat units, boosts air defence

JAIPUR: A year after Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army is transforming its battle formations to make them more agile while the Indian Air Force will soon receive two more squadrons of S-400 air defence systems to further strengthen the air space, top military officials said here on Thursday.

The officials also note that China's continuous military assistance is factored into the Indian security matrix.

They further assert that every terror camp in Pakistan is visible to the Indian forces and no sanctuaries are safe even if Islamabad shifts them deep inside the country.

Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Air Marshal A K Bharti and Vice Admiral A N Pramod who were the director generals of military operations in their respective services during the last year's India-Pakistan conflict spoke to the media at the army's South Western Command that looks after a part of the Western front.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also addressed a Joint Commanders Conference.

Responding to queries, Lt Gen Ghai said critical transformation in the armoured corps, mechanised infantry and aviation cops were at an "advanced stage of deliberation" and would be implemented.

This comes after the army carried out a series of such transformations in the infantry and artillery regiments to create Bhairav battalions, Ashni platoons, Divyastra batteries and Shaktiban regiments to tackle the emerging threats.

What is Operation Sindoor?

Operation Sindoor was a multi-dimensional military and strategic offensive launched by India on the night of 7–8th May, 2025. It was conducted in response to a major terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, on 22nd April, 2025, where 26 tourists were killed by the Pakistan-backed group The Resistance Front (TRF).

K'taka Cabinet clears major reforms; infra, welfare projects

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Thursday approved a series of significant decisions related to education, infrastructure, healthcare, employment and temple development during the 12th Cabinet meeting of 2026 held at Vidhana Soudha.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said the state government will legally challenge the Union Government's repeal of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and its replacement with the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajivika Mission (VB-GRAMG). Karnataka argued that the move weakens the "Right to Work" and reduces the powers of local bodies while increasing the financial burden on states.

The Cabinet also reviewed the Thorat Commission report on the proposed State Education Policy (SEP), which recommends a 2+8+4 education structure and compulsory Kannada or mother tongue instruction up to Class 5, preferably till Class 12.

Among key infrastructure decisions, the Cabinet approved a Rs 180 crore expansion of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research in Mysuru, increasing its capacity from 400 to 600 beds. A Rs 132.5 crore drinking water project for Hatti Gold Mines township in Raichur district was also cleared.

The Cabinet sanctioned Rs 200 crore for industrial estates and the PM-MITRA Mega Textile Park in Kalaburagi region.

Major temple development projects were also approved, including Rs 604.65 crore for Phase 3 works at Kukke Subramanya Temple and Rs 29 crore for Ghati Subramanya Temple.

A 2% reservation quota in state civil services for sportspersons representing Karnataka or India was also finalised by the Cabinet.

QUICK READ

Serial accidents near Dabaspet leave over 10 injured

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

More than 10 people were injured in a series of road accidents on the national highway near the Post Office Gate at Dabaspet in Nelamangala. The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals for treatment. According to police, the mishaps involved multiple vehicles, including bikes, two cars, a lorry, a government bus and a Bolero jeep. The accidents led to a massive traffic jam on the Bengaluru–Tumakuru highway, disrupting vehicular movement for several hours. Personnel from the Nelamangala Traffic Police rushed to the spot, cleared the damaged vehicles and restored traffic flow on the busy highway. Further investigation into the accidents is underway.

Public thrash man for attempting to stab estranged wife

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A man was thrashed by members of the public after he allegedly attempted to stab his estranged wife on a road in Dasanapura near Madanayakanahalli. According to police, the accused, identified as Sanjay, had married for the second time. However, his wife had been living separately due to his alleged alcohol addiction. On the day of the incident, the woman was walking on the road when Sanjay reportedly arrived on a bike, stopped her and tried to attack her with a knife. Locals immediately intervened, rescued the woman and assaulted the accused before handing him over to the police. Madanayakanahalli police have launched an investigation.

Rs 170 crore sanctioned for Rajakaluve works: Muniraju

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Dasarahalli MLA S Muniraju said the government has sanctioned Rs 170 crore for Rajakaluve development works in the constituency. He was speaking after launching development works near Defence Colony, Cauvery Layout and Dhanapal Layout. The project includes construction of barrier walls along the Rajakaluves, installation of fencing and clearance of encroachments. Muniraju said the works would help prevent people from dumping garbage into the canals and ensure smooth flow of water. He added that quality development measures would be undertaken to improve drainage infrastructure and avoid flooding problems in the area during heavy rain.

Art of Living marks 45 years; PM Modi to inaugurate Dhyan Mandir

Prime Minister Modi will launch Dhyan Mandir and year-long social welfare initiatives.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

As the Art of Living completes 45 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the celebrations and the 70th birthday events of founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar on May 10 at the Art of Living International Center on Kanakapura Road.Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the newly constructed Dhyan Mandir (meditation hall) along with year-long projects focused on mental well-being, rural development, nature conservation and social transformation.Speaking about the organisation's journey, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar said the sign of a healthy society is seeing a smile on every face, which has remained the guiding vision of the Art of Living for the past 45 years.

Founded in 1981 by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the Art of Living has grown into a global volunteer-driven humanitarian and educational organisation with a presence in over 180 countries. Born in Papanasam in Tamil Nadu on May 13, 1956, Ravi Shankar showed an early inclination towards spirituality and began reciting the Bhagavad Gita at a young age. By the age of 17, he had graduated in modern physics, combining scientific learning with spiritual teachings.

During a 10-day period of silence, he developed Sudarshan Kriya, a breathing technique now practised worldwide. Over the decades, the organisation has built a network of over 37,000 programme leaders and more than a million volunteers globally.Its humanitarian initiatives include rehabilitation programmes for victims and perpetrators of violence, including former militants and gang members in conflict-hit regions such as Kosovo, Iraq and India. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's contributions have been recognised with the Padma Vibhushan and several international honours.In the field of education, the organisation runs more than 1,300 free schools in rural and tribal areas, benefiting over one lakh children. Vocational training initiatives have reached more than 4.7 lakh youth across India.Environmental campaigns by the organisation include rejuvenation of over 75 rivers and extensive tree plantation drives. Prisoner rehabilitation programmes have reached more than eight lakh inmates worldwide. Campaigns promoting ethics, anti-corruption, women's empowerment and mental well-being have also mobilised millions.The Art of Living's World Culture Festivals have been organised in cities including Bengaluru, Berlin, New Delhi and Washington DC. A global meditation for world peace led by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar will be held on May 13 and streamed live worldwide.

KSCDCL to open first showroom outside state in Jaipur

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka State Coir Development Corporation Limited (KSCDCL) is set to open its first showroom outside Karnataka in Jaipur on Saturday, marking a major step in its efforts to expand the market for eco-friendly coir products across the country.

The showroom, established in collaboration with a regional distributor, will stock nearly 6,000 Dutch mats along with a range of other coir products, KSCDCL Chairman Nataraj Janakiram said.

The first consignment of products was flagged off by Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh at Vidhana Soudha last week and has already reached Jaipur.

Strong education foundation shapes a successful life: Dr Jayakar Shetty

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Education is the foundation of life, and a strong educational base can shape a magnificent future, said Dr Jayakar Shetty, Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University.

He was speaking at the graduation ceremony of BGS-B School on Kengeri-Uttarahalli Main Road in Bengaluru. Addressing students, Dr Shetty stressed that education and industrial aspirations must go hand in hand. He said educational institutions should equip students with skills that industries currently demand.

According to him, the present curriculum reforms introduced by the Central and State governments are moving in the right direction by focusing on skill-based education. He also said the present time offers immense opportunities for young entrepreneurs and encouraged students to become job creators instead of merely seeking employment.

Dr Shetty praised the contributions of the BGS and SJB Group of Institutions in the fields of education, healthcare and employment generation.

Dr Prakashnath Swamiji also addressed the gathering and urged students to contribute to the development of their families and society. Drawing inspiration from Balagangadharanatha Swamiji, he said students should uphold values of service and social responsibility.

He noted that industries no longer evaluate candidates solely based on academic marks, but also consider qualities such as discipline, punctuality and conduct. Students, he said, must develop these qualities alongside academic excellence.

During the ceremony, degrees were awarded to 270 students.

Among those present were Pramod, Varadarajan, Dr S P Yoganna, Dr Puttaraju, Megha Patil Mongoli, Dr Mohan, Dr Guruprasad and Principal Ramya.

Nearly 600 vehicles towed for parking violations since April 1

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A month after Bengaluru reintroduced towing operations for wrongly parked vehicles, traffic police say the crackdown is beginning to show visible impact on city roads. Since April 1, nearly 600 vehicles — the majority of them cars — have been towed away for causing obstruction and traffic congestion across different parts of the city.At present, towing operations are being carried out in the Central, West and North traffic divisions with six towing trucks in service. Officials said the drive will soon be expanded to South Bengaluru and other congested areas. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy said six additional towing vehicles would soon be added to strengthen enforcement across the city. He said the towing fleet, provided by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), currently functions with small teams of three to four personnel, including the driver. Every operation is supervised by an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) from the respective traffic police station.Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Anoop Shetty said authorities are currently operating with one towing vehicle for every two traffic police station jurisdictions. According to him, the focus has largely been on cars and other four-wheelers as they occupy more road space and create major bottlenecks for moving traffic.Officials said the towing strategy is flexible and changes depending on traffic congestion. In the west division, a tow truck may operate in Wilson Garden one day and move to Ashok Nagar the next, covering different problem areas throughout the week.A senior traffic police officer said towing vehicles are deployed immediately whenever severe congestion is reported due to illegal parking. He added that parking violations are most common on roads within the central business district and at key junctions along the Outer Ring Road.According to police, wrong parking is particularly severe in the south-east and southern stretches of the Outer Ring Road, especially in the city's tech corridor, where roadside parking often narrows carriageways and slows traffic movement during peak hours.BackgroundVehicle towing in Bengaluru had been suspended on February 2, 2022, following allegations of corruption and irregularities in enforcement. The system was officially reintroduced on April 5, 2026.The operations are being jointly conducted by the Bengaluru Traffic Police and the GBA. Officials said all towing vehicles are equipped with dash cameras and geotagging systems to improve transparency and accountability. The fine for wrong parking is Rs 500 for all vehicles. In addition, vehicle owners must pay towing charges of Rs 650 for two-wheelers and Rs 1,000 for four-wheelers.

Problems continue for smooth traffic flow inspite of levying fines for wrong parking

CYBERCROOKS POSING AS NIA OFFICIALS DUPE ELDERLY WOMAN OF RS 2 CRORE

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 78-year-old homemaker and her daughter were allegedly cheated of Rs 2.1 crore by cybercriminals posing as officials of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a sophisticated "digital arrest" scam in Bengaluru.

The victims, residents of Jayanagar, were targeted after fraudsters falsely claimed they were linked to a terror-related investigation involving the banned Popular Front of India (PFI).According to police, the ordeal began on April 13 when the elderly woman received a WhatsApp call from a man claiming to be an NIA officer.

The caller alleged that a PFI member arrested during an investigation had been using a debit card issued in her name. He warned her not to reveal the matter to anyone, saying the case was highly sensitive.The fraudsters gradually gained the woman's trust and collected details about her family members along with copies of identification documents. They later claimed that her daughter was also under suspicion in the same case.

A man identifying himself as Pradeep Jaswal allegedly conducted video-recorded "statements" of the woman and her daughter. The accused repeatedly threatened them with arrest and public humiliation if they failed to cooperate.Terrified by the accusations, the victims insisted they had no links to any terror organisation.

The fraudsters then assured them that they could avoid arrest if they cooperated with the "investigation."On the pretext of verifying money trails and complying with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) procedures, the accused persuaded the woman to disclose details of her bank accounts and balances. They subsequently instructed her to transfer funds to multiple bank accounts, claiming the money would be returned after verification.

Believing the claims, the woman transferred her life savings over several transactions. Police said she even prematurely closed fixed deposits held in two banks and transferred the proceeds to the fraudsters.

The cybercriminals allegedly continued manipulating the victims and convinced them to pledge gold jewellery to raise additional funds. The fraud came to light only on May 2 when the elderly woman approached her brother seeking more money.Suspecting foul play, her brother warned her that she was being cheated.

The woman then contacted the national cybercrime helpline 1930 and later filed a formal complaint with the police.A senior police officer said a case has been registered under provisions of the Information Technology Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Investigators are now working to trace the accused and freeze the money transferred into various accounts.

Educational institutions preparing students for future technologies: Siddharth Verma

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Educational institutions are equipping students with knowledge required for the future in today's technology-driven world, said Siddharth Verma, Senior General Manager of Schneider Electric Company.

He was speaking after inaugurating the cultural programme "Verve-2026" organised at JSS Engineering College on Kengeri-Uttarahalli Main Road. Addressing students, Verma said the industrial revolution that began in the 17th century paved the way for the technological advancements seen today, particularly in the field of electrical energy.He urged students to make the best use of the knowledge imparted by professors and develop skills that would help them succeed in the modern industrial environment.

Sangamesh Upase said such cultural and educational platforms help students gain confidence and improve their overall personality. He noted that values such as culture and discipline continue to be preserved through monasteries and educational institutions.Referring to the teachings of Basavanna, Upase said students should adopt his ideals and vachanas in their daily lives to promote equality in society. He added that participation in extracurricular activities alongside academics enhances students' knowledge and leadership abilities.

TERMINAL LACKS MAINTENANCE

Airport-like promise fades as SMVT struggles with maintenance issues

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Years after its grand inauguration, the Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal at Byappanahalli is facing growing criticism over deteriorating passenger amenities and maintenance concerns, raising questions about whether the station has lived up to its "airport-like" image.

When the terminal was opened, it drew widespread attention for its modern architecture, glass façade, escalators, digital displays and centralised air-conditioning. Constructed at a cost of Rs 314 crore, the station was projected as a future-ready railway hub designed to redefine passenger comfort in Bengaluru.

However, passengers now say the reality falls short of expectations. While the terminal continues to witness heavy long-distance passenger traffic and remains one of the city's busiest railway stations, several facilities have failed to keep pace with increasing footfall.Inside the station, many passengers complained about inadequate cooling despite the terminal being marketed as centrally air-conditioned. Travellers said the difference between outdoor and indoor temperatures was barely noticeable during afternoon hours, making waiting areas uncomfortable.The lack of adequate seating has emerged as another major concern. Many passengers were seen sitting on floors or standing for extended periods while waiting for trains. Long-distance travellers often arrive well in advance due to Bengaluru's unpredictable traffic conditions, leading to overcrowding in the concourse area.Maintenance issues were also visible across the premises. Parking areas were littered with garbage, including liquor bottles, while paan stains were found on staircases, platforms and walls. Passengers additionally raised concerns over poorly maintained washrooms and hygiene standards within the station.Railway officials, however, maintained that the facilities remain operational and said measures are being taken to improve passenger experience as traffic grows steadily.Responding to complaints regarding poor cooling, officials denied any failure in the air-conditioning system and stated that the equipment was functioning normally. Authorities also addressed concerns about escalators frequently remaining non-functional. According to officials, passengers often press emergency stop buttons unnecessarily, after which the escalators can only be restarted using special keys available with security personnel.

Railway authorities said expansion works are already underway to reduce congestion and improve facilities. A new concourse spanning nearly 875 square metres is currently being constructed adjacent to the existing terminal at an estimated cost of Rs 17 crore.

QUICK READ

Negi orders urgent action for drinking water

Koppal

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Varnit Negi directed officials to treat drinking water supply as the district's top priority during a District Water and Sanitation Mission meeting on Thursday. He ordered speedy completion of ongoing water projects and insisted that water from rented private borewells must be tested before public use. Negi asked authorities to stop unsafe borewells immediately and provide tanker water to affected villages. He also instructed officials to clean overhead tanks every month, repair leaking pipelines within 24 hours, and conduct weekly reviews in drought-hit rural areas to ensure uninterrupted summer water supply for all residents.

Diploma admissions open for handloom course

Gadag

Applications have been invited from eligible candidates for admission to the three-year Diploma in Handloom and Textile Technology (DHTT) course for the academic year 2026-27. A total of 39 seats are available for both male and female students. Selected students will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 2,500 during the course as per official guidelines. Hostel facilities will be provided for male students on a paid basis. Applicants must have passed SSLC or an equivalent examination with English as one of the subjects. As on July 1, 2026, candidates from the general category must be between 15 and 23 years of age, while Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates should be between 15 and 25 years. Selection will be based on merit calculated from qualifying examination marks. Interested candidates can apply online and submit forms before May 30. Further details are available at the Karnataka Handloom Technology Institute, Narasapur, Gadag.

Arabic summer camp ends with certificate ceremony

Koppal

A month-long summer training camp on Arabic education concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony at the Sardar Galli Medina Mosque premises in Koppal. Around 60 boys and girls participated in the programme held to teach basic Arabic and Quran recitation skills. The camp was conducted under the guidance of Pesh Imam Maulana Haider Ali, who trained students in Arabic learning and proper Quran recitation during the training period. At the closing ceremony, certificates and prizes were distributed to all participants in recognition of their efforts. Several local leaders and community members attended the event, including Sardar Galli Panch Committee President Khader Saab Kudurimoti, former municipal council member M. Pasha Manvi, Mustafa Kudurimoti, Saif Ullah Saheb, Shoheb Saheb, and others. Women activists and representatives from various organisations also participated. Maulana Haider Ali led a special prayer wishing success and bright future for all students who completed the camp successfully with dedication and discipline during the program period.

Crackdown on illegal lending after brutal murder

Police launch a massive crackdown in Uttara Kannada to eradicate predatory "meter interest" rackets following Jameer Ahmed's murder.

KARWAR

Following the brutal murder of Jameer Ahmed Dargawale, a notorious figure in the "meter interest" racket, police have launched a massive crackdown to end illegal lending in Uttara Kannada. Superintendent of Police Deepan has initiated a master plan to eradicate these predatory gangs in Mundagod, Haliyal, and Dandeli.

The investigation into Jameer's death has revealed that the illegal interest business is

becoming active once again. So far, seven people have been arrested in connection with the murder, which is believed to be a direct result of disputes within the lending racket. Under the leadership of Sirsi DySP Geeta Patil, a special team is now gathering detailed evidence to identify everyone involved in this criminal network.

The crackdown has also caused panic within the police department. Investigations suggest that several local officers may have been supporting the illegal business. SP Deepan is now reviewing Jameer's mobile phone records, including WhatsApp messages and call logs, to identify officers who were in constant contact with the kingpin. This move has sent shivers down the spines of those who secretly protected the gang.

In a bold move to restore peace, the police have already issued official orders to deport several known racketeers from the district this week. While the public has welcomed this strict action against the "meter interest" menace, the ongoing investigation continues to expose a deep web of corruption. The police remain committed to cleaning up the district and ensuring these illegal gangs never rise again.

Bizarre road work sparks outrage in Karwar

KARWAR

Karwar residents are outraged after contractors asphalted a perfect concrete road, then destroyed the surface while scraping it off, sparking allegations of massive fund misuse.

At a time when road projects across the state are stalled due to a lack of funds and bitumen, a bizarre controversy has erupted in Karwar. Residents are furious after contractors laid asphalt over a perfectly maintained concrete road, only to tear it up a day later.

The incident occurred on the busy stretch connecting the Karwar bus stand to the Kaiga nuclear power plant. Locals were shocked to see workers suddenly applying asphalt to the solid concrete surface. Following a massive public outcry, the contractors halted the work halfway. However, in an attempt to hide the mistake, they used a JCB to scrape off the fresh asphalt, severely damaging the original concrete road in the process.

The project was reportedly funded under the K-SHIP scheme. Sources say the contractor, who hails from Vijayapura, failed to survey the site properly. Furthermore, the work was allegedly started without informing local Public Works Department officials. This has raised serious questions about how lakhs of rupees were sanctioned for a road that required no repairs while other areas struggle for basic maintenance.

Public anger is boiling over the blatant waste of taxpayer money. Residents are questioning the logic of ruining a good road during a statewide bitumen shortage. While many MLAs are pleading for grants to fix broken streets, Karwar has witnessed a "scientific disaster" where profit-driven work has left a once-perfect road in ruins. Authorities are now under pressure to investigate this misuse of public funds.

The Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority invites artists to design a logo capturing the ancient village's rich cultural history.

Local artists invited to design Lakkundi logo

GADAG

The historic village of Lakkundi is searching for a brand-new visual identity. In an exciting move to celebrate its deep roots, the Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority has officially invited artists from across the state to design a unique logo that captures the essence of this ancient land.

Lakkundi is more than just a village, it is a vital heritage center for Karnataka. Its story stretches from the Neolithic era through centuries of glorious culture and stunning architecture. Now, officials want a symbol that reflects this rich history. The Authority is looking for creative and meaningful designs that highlight the area's historical significance and cultural diversity. Whether it is the intricate temple carvings or the spirit of the past, the logo must tell Lakkundi's story at a single glance.

Interested creators should prepare their designs in professional digital formats. The competition is open to all talented artists who feel they can represent the "recent past" and ancient glory of the region in one cohesive image. Submissions must be sent via email to the official department address for review.

District Magistrate and Authority Chairman, Sharanu Gogeri, emphasized that this is a rare chance for artists to leave a lasting mark on Karnataka's cultural map. For more details or specific submission guidelines, artists can visit the Commissioner's office at the District Administration Building on Hubballi Road or call 9620988939. This is your moment to turn ancient history into a modern masterpiece.

Hostel registration mandatory, child safety top priority: DC

BALLARI

Deputy Commissioner Nagendra Prasad K has directed all government, private and aided school and college hostels in the district to compulsorily register under the new hostel regulations and ensure strict child safety measures.

Speaking at the district-level monitoring committee meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat hall on Thursday, he said all hostels must apply for registration within two months under the "Karnataka Children's Hostels Regulation Rules-2025." He warned that institutions failing to register would face cancellation of recognition.

District Superintendent of Police Suman D Pennekar instructed institutions to form child safety, monitoring and anti-ragging committees and hold regular monthly meetings.

He said every management committee should include at least one woman member. Appointment of women wardens for girls' hostels and male wardens for boys' hostels has also been made mandatory.

To prevent drug abuse, officials directed hostel authorities to inspect students' bags once every 15 days. Helpline numbers 1098 and 112 must be displayed prominently on campus walls.

Zilla Panchayat CEO Mohammed Haris Sumeer asked hostel authorities to ensure proper functioning of CCTV cameras.

More than 170 hostel wardens and administrators attended the meeting.

Prohibitory orders imposed in Kudatini till May 14

BALLARI

The Ballari administration has imposed prohibitory orders in Kudatini town and surrounding areas from May 7 to May 14 in view of possible protests during the land acquisition and boundary demarcation process in the Kudatini industrial area.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Rajesh H D issued the order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order and protect public property.

According to officials, the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has begun survey and boundary demarcation work on lands acquired in the Kudatini industrial area. Police reports indicated the possibility of protests by affected farmers and various organisations during the process.

The restrictions will apply across the entire Kudatini KIADB area, including stretches from Ballari Bypass Road to Sultanpur Cross, Sultanpur village, Haraginadoni Road, Thimmalapura village and the railway gate on Yelubenchi Road.

The order prohibits assembly of more than four persons in the notified areas. Authorities have also banned carrying weapons, petrol, diesel, poison bottles, stones, knives and other sharp objects.

Officials said the prohibitory orders will remain in force from 6 pm on May 7 until 6 pm on May 14.

Diverse cropping essential to protect soil health: Experts

BALLARI

Farmers should move away from traditional single-crop farming and adopt diversified cropping systems to ensure sustainable agriculture and maintain soil fertility, said Dr Ramesh M N, Senior Scientist at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC).

He was speaking during an awareness programme on "Diversified Cropping Systems for Soil Health Improvement" organised at Mattajanahalli village in Sandur taluk under the Tribal Sub-Plan initiative by the Ballari regional centre of ICAR-IISWC.

Dr Ramesh said the use of locally available resources for preparing organic manure and incorporating crop residues into the soil instead of burning them would improve soil health. He added that livestock farming, green manure and agroforestry systems not only provide additional income to farmers but also help them withstand climate-related challenges.

Senior Scientist Dr Mahipal Choudhary stressed the importance of soil testing and advised farmers to follow the 4R principle while applying fertilisers — right source, right rate, right time and right place. He explained that the use of gypsum in iron-rich red soil would improve soil structure and enhance water retention capacity.

Senior Scientist Dr Ravi Dupdal highlighted that crop diversification and alternative nutrient sources such as compost, vermicompost, green manure and farmyard manure help reduce cultivation costs and improve productivity.

Scientist Dr Kavita P Jadhav encouraged farmers to adopt eco-friendly agricultural practices such as Jeevamrutha, Beejamrutha and mulching for sustainable yields.

During the programme, improved pigeon pea seeds (PRG-176) were distributed and demonstrations on gypsum and micronutrient application were conducted. More than 40 farmers participated in the awareness campaign.

HESCOM to refund over one hundred crores

HUBBALLI

The Hubli Electricity Supply Company, known as HESCOM, has shared some rare good news for local taxpayers. Officials announced that the company saved a staggering Rs 153.46 crore during the 2024-25 financial year and plans to give that money back to its customers.

HESCOM Chairman Syed Azimpeer S. Qadri explained that these massive savings were the result of smarter management in how the company purchases and supplies power. This efficient approach was carried out under the specific guidance of Energy Minister K.J. George. Following a directive from the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, this surplus will be returned to the public to ease their financial burden.

The refund process is designed to be steady and fair. Starting in the 2026-27 period, customers will receive the money in 12 monthly installments. The amount each person gets back depends on how much power they used previously; the rate is set at 10 paise per unit based on 2024-25 consumption. Look for a specific entry on your monthly bill labeled as a "True-Up charge" to see your savings.

Yelaburga Panchayat invites applications for welfare schemes

KOPPAL

The Yelaburga Town Panchayat has invited applications from eligible beneficiaries for individual welfare schemes under the SFC 7.25 percent and 5 percent grants for the year 2026-27. The schemes aim to support poor students and specially abled people in the town.

Under the student assistance scheme, financial help will be provided to deserving students studying at different levels. Selection will be based on academic performance. Applicants must submit caste and income certificates, Aadhaar card, voter ID, marks card, study certificate, bank details, address proof, and passport-size photographs.

Under the 5 percent scheme, assistance for manual therapy treatment and hearing aids will be given to specially abled beneficiaries. Required documents include disability certificates, medical bills, and supporting certificates from the concerned department.

The last date to submit applications at the Yelaburga Town Panchayat office is May 20 by 1.30 pm afternoon.

Lokayukta meeting invites public grievance complaints

GADAG

The Karnataka Lokayukta Police of Gadag district will hold a public grievances meeting on May 13 at the Municipal Office in Lakshmeshwar from 10.30 am to 1 pm. The programme aims to hear complaints from citizens regarding delays, negligence, and misuse of power in government offices. Officials from various taluk-level departments will attend the meeting. People can submit written complaints against officers accused of delaying public works, denying benefits of government schemes to eligible people, or misusing government funds. Complaints about poor quality work, unnecessary delays in projects, and misconduct by government staff during duty will also be accepted. Lokayukta Deputy Commissioner of Police Vijay Biradara said complainants must submit supporting documents along with affidavits in Form 1 and Form 2. However, complaints related to matters already pending before courts will not be considered during the public meeting programme.

BELAGAVI GANG CRACKDOWN

Belagavi police deport eighteen rowdy sheeters

BELAGAVI

In a major crackdown on organized crime, eighteen rowdy sheeters have been deported from Belagavi district to restore public order. District Superintendent of Police K. Ramarajan issued a stern warning, stating that only "good boys" who follow the law are welcome to stay in the region.

The deported individuals were reportedly involved in serious crimes, including murder, attempted murder, and illegal gambling. Beyond physical violence, the police emphasized that these groups used social media to glorify criminal lifestyles. Under names like "Tagaru Boys" and "King Maker," they uploaded videos featuring gang-style music and weapons to intimidate the public and influence local youth.

SP Ramarajan noted that some criminals even used minor children in their videos to project power, a trend the department finds intolerable. "Walking around with swords and cutting cakes with knives on social media is not a badge of honor, it is a crime," he explained during a media conference.

The periods of exile range from one month to an entire year. Notable deportations include Gangappa Nayak, Sanju Mestri, and Hanamant Madar, who received a one-year banishment. The police department is currently monitoring all digital platforms to identify anyone else promoting rowdyism. Parents have been urged to keep their children away from such activities to ensure a peaceful future. The message from the district administration is clear, follow the law or face immediate removal.

QUICK READ

Storm damages house in Vadlimanaganahalli village

HUNSUR

In Hunsur, heavy storm hit Vadlimanaganahalli village and caused damage to a newly built house owned by Puttaswaminayaka and his wife Pushpalatha, leaders of the mentally challenged community. Roof sheets and iron structures were destroyed, leaving the family in hardship. Former MLA H. P. Manjunath visited the spot and inspected the losses. He spoke to the couple and encouraged them to stay strong, offering personal support and stressing the importance of education for their children. Villagers also gathered and showed concern. The incident has left the family struggling, but community support is being extended in the village area.

Mandya to host Seed Festival Pre-Monsoon drive

MANDYA

University of Agricultural Sciences, Mandya, will host Seed Festival and Pre-Monsoon Movement 2026 on May 8, 10 am at V.C. Farm, Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar Auditorium. VC Dr K C Narayanaswamy will inaugurate chief guests Y S Patil and G T Putra attend. Research Director Dr G M Devagiri will chair the program. It promotes quality seeds, timely supply and improved crop varieties for farmers. Farmers from Mandya nearby districts will participate with scientists from KVKs EEUs. 30 stalls will display certified and native seeds participation from KSSC NSC NGOs. Sessions cover monsoon preparation, seed selection and modern crop production methods.

Hiriyur launches financial aid scheme applications

CHITRADURGA

Applications are invited under Chief Minister Amrutha Nagarotthana Phase-4 scheme for 2024-25 in Hiriyur Municipal Corporation. The last date to apply is May 22. The scheme offers financial help to Scheduled Caste students studying MBBS and BE, with support under 24.10%, 7.25% and 5% categories within available funds. Fifty percent admission fee will be refunded to SC, ST and other quota students in government and aided colleges. Three wheelers will be given to eligible differently abled persons. Financial support is also planned for SC small entrepreneurs. Applications are accepted May 8-22, said Commissioner A Wasim.

Vishwanath criticizes government over two controversial decisions

Vishwanath said government should not allow Ramachandra Rao back to duty amid ongoing serious allegations and investigations cases

MYSURU

MLC H. Vishwanath on Thursday criticized the Karnataka government over two recent developments, calling them "black marks" on the state's image Speaking at a press conference held at the Jaladarshini Guest House in Mysuru, he questioned the government's decision to revoke the suspension of senior police officer Ramachandra Rao and also objected to the public celebration planned for former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa

Vishwanath said the government should not have allowed Ramachandra Rao to return to duty while serious allegations against him remain under discussion He recalled that Rao had earlier faced suspension after his adopted daughter, Ranya Rao, was arrested in a gold smuggling case He also referred to accusations of sexual assault

made against the officer by a woman who had approached him seeking helpAccording to Vishwanath, a forensic science laboratory report had earlier confirmed the authenticity of a video linked to the case, following which the government suspended the officer He questioned why the suspension was suddenly withdrawn and said such actions weaken public trust in justice and administrationThe MLC also criticized the "Abhimanotsava" event planned in Chitradurga in support of Yediyurappa, who is facing charges under the POCSO Act Vishwanath said organizing a celebration during such a sensitive legal matter sends the wrong message to the publicHe further said political leaders and officials must act responsibly when cases involving serious allegations are still before the courts Vishwanath urged the government to protect the credibility of institutions and avoid decisions that could create confusion among citizens.

Mangaluru IT Park faces hurdles as investors stay away

MANGALURU

The project is vital for jobs and economic growth around Mangaluru, but the first bidding process failed without any applications

The dream of establishing a major IT Park in Mangaluru under the Karnataka government's "Beyond Bengaluru" initiative has hit a roadblock after the project failed to attract bidders during the first phase of tendering.The proposed Rs 135-crore IT Park is expected to come up on 3.2 acres near Blueberry Hills Road at Derebail and is aimed at boosting IT and BT investments in coastal Karnataka while creating large-scale employment opportunities.The project is considered crucial for generating thousands of direct and indirect jobs and improving economic opportunities in both urban and rural areas surrounding Mangaluru.

However, despite the project's significance, the first bidding process ended without receiving a single application.The tender process, issued by Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation (KEONICS), began on December 15, 2025 and closed a month later. Following the lack of response, the government has now invited a second round of tenders, which will remain open until May 22.Sources indicate that even during the second phase, only one bidder has shown preliminary interest.

According to industry experts, one of the biggest reasons for poor investor response is inadequate infrastructure around the project site, especially lack of proper road connectivity. Though the location is just one kilometre away from National Highway 66, access and supporting infrastructure remain underdeveloped.Experts also believe strict tender conditions and high lease rentals have discouraged companies. Since the project land belongs to the government, investors expected lower rental rates suited for a Tier-2 city. However, the pricing structure reportedly resembles metro-city standards.

Rajanna urges swift decision amid leadership confusion

MYSURU

Former Karnataka minister and Congress MLA Rajanna urged the party high command to quickly clear the confusion over a possible leadership change in the state. He said a delayed decision could affect both the government and the Congress party.

Speaking to reporters outside Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's residence in Mysuru on Wednesday, Rajanna said the chief minister would follow whatever decision the party leadership takes. He added that the high command should act soon to avoid uncertainty among party workers and leaders.

Rajanna revealed that he had personally spoken to senior party leaders and had also written a letter requesting an early decision. According to him, the issue should not remain unresolved for a long time because it may weaken the administration and create unnecessary political tension.

He also demanded clarity on cabinet expansion and said ministers should either be given freedom to work or the party should take a final call on leadership changes.

Rajanna said several Congress leaders are capable of becoming chief minister. He added that there was nothing wrong with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar hoping for the top post.

Asked whether replacing Siddaramaiah would hurt the party, Rajanna said Congress is a national party and such matters are decided by the high command. He stressed that focus should remain on governance instead of confusion among supporters.

Lawyer loses Rs 1 lakh in instant cyber theft

CHIKKAMAGALURU

A lawyer from Chikkamagaluru became the victim of a cyber fraud after nearly Rs 1 lakh was allegedly stolen from his account within moments of a gold loan amount being credited.According to the complaint filed with police, the advocate had received Rs 4.14 lakh in his bank account after pledging gold ornaments for a loan. However, seconds after the amount was deposited, Rs 99,584 was allegedly transferred illegally through Amazon Pay by unknown cyber fraudsters.The victim claimed that he did not receive any OTP alert, suspicious message or APK link related to the transaction. He reportedly discovered the unauthorised deduction before even exiting the bank after completing the gold loan process.The incident has raised concerns over growing cyber fraud cases where criminals are allegedly managing to access banking information without direct interaction with victims.Following the incident, the lawyer lodged a complaint at the Cyber Crime Police Station in Chikkamagaluru. Police have registered a case and begun an investigation into the matter.Officials are examining transaction details and digital records to identify how the fraudsters gained access to the account and carried out the transfer so quickly after the money was credited.Cyber crime police have urged citizens to remain cautious while using digital banking services and to immediately inform authorities in case of suspicious transactions or unauthorised withdrawals.

Kalavathi urges women to improve skills on self employment

MADIKERI

Women should improve their skills to achieve self-employment and better opportunities in life, said Madikeri Municipal Corporation President P. Kalavathi. She was speaking as chief guest at a month-long micro entrepreneurship development program organized by NABARD Bengaluru in collaboration with ODP Mysuru at Basappa Nursery Hall in Madikeri. She said women associations help improve skills and confidence and encouraged participants to stay calm and positive while learning new abilities.

T Bhagya Nandam, Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya Madikeri, said art and skill are important for creativity and women must adapt to changing times and technology. He added that fashion today blends tradition and modern ideas and women should use their creativity to become self-reliant and confident in society. Kodagu NABARD District Development Officer V Ramesh Babu said skills cannot be taken away and can be shared and promoted using social media platforms. He said NABARD has been conducting skill training programs in Kodagu and women should make use of them for financial independence. Father John Fernandes of Mysore ODP said the organization works for women's empowerment and supports self-help groups to improve livelihoods. Lalitha, project coordinator, said NABARD skill programs have helped many women become self-reliant and earn income from home using their talents.

Officials including Joyce Menezes Vijaya Narayana Mary Elizabeth and others participated in the event and supported the training initiative for women. Organizers said the program will continue to encourage rural women to learn new skills use digital tools and build stronger financial independence through small business opportunities in the coming years. Officials also highlighted that such training programs are key for inclusive development in Karnataka.

Kodagu cracks down on illegal homestays

MADIKERI

Authorities in Kodagu district have warned homestay operators to strictly follow registration rules or face legal action. Sub-Divisional officials said all homestays must obtain approval from the Tourism Department before operating and must register through the official government portal. They said unregistered homestays will be treated as illegal under the Karnataka Tourism Business Facilitation and Regulation Act 2015 and action will be taken against owners.Officials stressed that registered homestays must display permits at the entrance and follow all safety and hygiene rules. They said homestays cannot be run in rented or sub-leased buildings and the owner must live on the premises. Time-sharing room rentals are not allowed. CCTV cameras must be installed and operated 24 hours a day with recordings stored for at least 30 days. Staff background checks through the police department are also mandatory.

Authorities instructed owners to maintain guest registers, complaint books, and feedback records.

Sridevi Group announces large engineering scholarship test

TUMAKURU

Sridevi Group of Institutions has announced a large scholarship test for engineering students, aiming to support over 1300 candidates from poor and talented backgrounds. The management said the exam will be held on the college campus on the 10th and will follow a CET model pattern. Founder president Dr M R Hulinaiker said the institution spends around Rs 2 crore every year to help students continue higher education without financial stress. According to the scheme, top 11 rank holders will receive free education for four years. Students ranking 11th to 30th will pay only CET fees, while 31st to 60th get 25 percent tuition waiver.

Those ranked 61st to 100th will get 10 percent scholarship and lab fee reduction. Students above 101 rank will get a waiver of Rs 10,000 in lab fees. They also provide bus facility, food, and snacks for students appearing for the test. Officials said more than 1300 students have already registered and numbers may cross 2000. In the last decade, over 200 students have benefited and secured jobs in leading companies. The college says scholarship students are earning salaries between five and fifteen lakh rupees annually. Incentives of Rs 6,000 are given to students scoring highest marks each semester.

College officials said infrastructure has been improved to match global education standards. Many students and staff attended the press conference held in Tumakuru. Sridevi institution said its scholarship initiative follows traditional gurukul values and supports equal education opportunities for rural youth across Karnataka. Management added that the program will continue expanding every year to reach more deserving students.

FORGOTTEN FORT LEGACY

Locals raise concern over neglected historic fort

CHIKKAMAGALURU

A historic fort in Sakharaya town of Kadur taluk is falling into neglect even though it carries important traces of Karnataka's past. The structure, believed to have been built during the time of the Keladi and Vijayanagara rulers around 1646–47, still stands in the heart of the coffee-growing district, but locals say it is slowly deteriorating due to lack of maintenance.According to Shakunagiri Temple President Sachchidananda, historical records suggest that Aruvadi Sri Ranga Raya, a feudatory ruler under the Vijayanagara Empire, built the fort with royal support. He said the fort was designed in a circular shape for security purposes and once even housed a mint used for producing gold coins. A water system connected to Ayyan Lake was also created to strengthen its protection.One of the main attractions of the fort is a massive cannon placed at its top. Locals claim it is one of the longest cannons in Karnataka, measuring nearly 19 feet and weighing between 22 and 24 tons. It is believed to have been used for defence and could fire shells up to two miles. Some also say it was designed to be rotated by a single person.Despite its historical value, the fort remains poorly maintained. Residents have expressed concern that the structure is losing its identity due to neglect.

NEGLECTED INFRASTRUCTURE AFFECTS BELTHANGADY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

BELTHANGADY

The poor condition of the Block Education Officer's office in Belthangady has highlighted the neglect faced by the education department infrastructure in the taluk. Ironically, the department responsible for ensuring proper facilities in schools is itself struggling to function without a suitable office building.

The old BEO office located near Marigudi has turned dilapidated and unsafe after years of neglect. During every monsoon, rainwater leaked through the roof, making it difficult for officials and staff to work inside the building. Despite repeated appeals to the government for repair grants, no funds were reportedly released.Officials somehow managed to continue functioning from the damaged structure for several years. However, as leakage worsened and cracks began appearing across the building, authorities were left with no option but to vacate the office nearly a year ago.The office has now been temporarily shifted to the Samarthya Soudha building of the Belthangady Taluk Panchayat. However, staff members say the temporary location lacks adequate space and proper facilities, affecting smooth functioning of administrative work related to schools and educational institutions in the taluk.Adding to the concern is the abandoned Gurubhavan building located beside the old BEO office. The project was started decades ago to create a dedicated space for teachers' meetings, training programmes, cultural activities and official gatherings.

Though construction had progressed up to slab level with a hall and rooms being built, the project stopped midway due to lack of funding. More than Rs 15 lakh is said to have already been spent on the structure through government support and contributions from teachers.Today, the incomplete building stands abandoned with bushes and large trees growing around it. Continuous exposure to rain and heat has damaged the structure, with cracks appearing on the walls and water leakage from the roof worsening every year.

QUICK READ

Computer exam announced for Gram Tax Collectors

CHITRADURGA

A computer test will be held on May 22 at 11 am at Chitradurga Teachers' Training College for candidates applying for Gram Panchayat Tax Collector posts in Chitradurga district. The list of eligible candidates has been published on chitradurga.nic.in for direct recruitment to these vacant posts. All shortlisted candidates must bring their Aadhaar card and online application receipt while attending the exam. Those who fail to appear at the scheduled time will be treated as absent. More details are available on the Zilla Panchayat website chitradurga.nic.in, the officials said. Candidates are advised to follow instructions carefully for examination process rules.

Udupi Police launch locked house safety system

UDUPI

The Udupi District Police has launched an innovative Locked House Beat System (LHBS) to monitor houses left locked when residents travel or work. Beat staff will regularly check such homes during day and night to ensure safety and security. Residents can inform the district control room at 0820-2526709 before leaving. Through WhatsApp, they must share departure and return dates, address details, and a selfie taken in front of the house. The facility is only for individual houses, not apartments. Police have warned citizens not to share details with unknown numbers for safety reasons.

Gadag activist launches stray animal safety initiative

GADAG

Social activist Krishna H Hadapada has appreciated the efforts of S D Sinchana from Gadag for launching a unique animal protection campaign aimed at preventing road accidents involving stray animals. He said society must change its attitude towards the community of transgender people and recognize their potential as contributors to social welfare rather than viewing them only as help seekers.

As part of her birthday initiative, Sinchana has started a campaign to place reflective radium belts around the necks of cows and dogs that roam on roads at night. The belts are designed to glow when vehicle lights fall on them, making animals visible to drivers and helping prevent accidents. The initiative is aimed at saving both animal lives and ensuring road safety for motorists.

Nikhil Kumaraswamy addresses JD silver jubilee event

Nikhil criticized government, citing farmer debt, poor support prices, rural distress, and thousands of suicides statewide including Mandya

MANDYA

Mandya district leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy said that the region holds special place in his political journey as he spoke at the silver jubilee celebration of the Janata Dal party at Pandavapura in Melukote constituency

He said that Mandya has given him love and support even though his family is not originally from the district and added that the defeat in the twenty nineteen Lok Sabha election taught him important lessons about patience and maturity making him a more careful and experienced politician

He added that there is a clear difference between his earlier self and present self and he feels more responsible in public life now The Janata Dal party he said was formed

through the struggle of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda and continues to stand for Kannada land language water and farmers rights

He said the party has survived while many regional parties have disappeared and remains strong in Karnataka He praised H D Deve Gowda who at the age of ninety three continues to work in the Rajya Sabha for farmers irrigation and rural issues calling him an inspiration for younger leaders

Nikhil also criticized the current government saying that farmers are facing heavy debt no fair support prices and rising distress leading to serious problems in rural areas He claimed that in the last three years nearly three thousand farmers have died by suicide across the state including ninety seven in Mandya alone calling it proof of government failure

He said that people are worried about the future of farming and called for stronger support systems for farmers and better policies from leaders to protect rural life He also said that the year two thousand twenty eight assembly elections will be important and expressed confidence that the alliance could return to power with renewed public trustIn the meeting party workers expressed hope that former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy will return to active state politics and strengthen organization ahead of the next elections They said unity among leaders is key for success and urged continued focus on farmers issues development and regional pride

Unsafe water crisis sparks public outcry

GADAG

The activist said chicken market waste is dumped into drainage causing foul smell, while nearby road is damaged, hanging dangerously and risking pedestrians daily

Residents of Gadag city have raised serious concern over poor civic conditions in Javali Galli where a major storm water drain and drinking water pipeline system has been badly neglected by authorities said social activist Krishna H Hadapada in a press statement

He said the drinking water line drawn from Tungabhadra river passes through filthy drain water and is covered with waste including plastic and garbage creating serious health risks for nearby areas

He warned that even a small leak in the pipeline could allow sewage water to mix with drinking water affecting residents of Doragalli Hombalanaka Janata Colony Mageri Oni and Ambedkar Nagar and increasing risk of diseases like cholera and typhoidThe activist also highlighted that waste from a nearby chicken market including rotten meat and blood is being dumped directly onto the drainage area making the surroundings unbearable with foul smell affecting daily life of peopleHadapada further stated that the main cement concrete road near the drain has lost its foundation and is now hanging in the air creating fear among pedestrians especially school children and workers who use this route every day

He said that a major accident has been avoided only because heavy vehicles are currently not using the road due to ongoing railway flyover work but warned that the situation could turn dangerous once traffic resumes

He urged Gadag District In charge Minister HK Patil to immediately direct officials to shift the drinking water pipeline to a safe location and repair the damaged road without delay to prevent a possible disasterCalling the situation alarming he said asking whether people are being supplied drinking water or poison as the pipeline lies under waste and sewage he warned that if immediate action is not taken residents may be forced to protest in front of the municipal council demanding accountability and urgent repair workLocal residents have also expressed frustration over repeated neglect and said they hope authorities will respond quickly to restore safe drinking water and protect public health in the area before any major tragedy occurs in the neighbourhood.

Society seeks land for journalist housing; government will examine feasibility and alternatives like KUDA and municipal plots

WORKING JOURNALISTS SEEK HOUSING SITES IN KOLAR

KOLAR

The Kolar district administration has assured journalists that steps will be taken to explore housing site allocation in the region. Deputy Commissioner Dr M R Ravi said the request for five acres of land submitted by the Kolar and Chikkaballapur Working Journalists Cooperative Society will be examined. He added that the administration will check legal options for allotting government land for housing purposes.

He also suggested that the society consider alternative routes through KUDA, municipal bodies, and public private partnership models. Officials referred to Mysuru where journalists were allotted sites through urban development authority as a possible model for Kolar. Society president K S Ganesh said many journalists in the district still

live in rented houses without owning property. He said if five acres are allotted the society will develop layouts and distribute sites to eligible members. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that feasibility of government land allotment will be verified before any final decision. He said other possibilities such as municipal council land, KUDA plots, and development partnerships would also be explored. Journalists present welcomed the initiative and urged the administration to speed up the process for housing allotment.

The administration said all legal checks will be completed before any allocation is formally approved for the society. It added that ensuring transparent procedures and fair distribution of land remains the top priority of the district government. The Deputy Commissioner also said that experiences from other districts will be studied carefully so that a suitable and legally sound housing solution can be created for journalists in Kolar while maintaining transparency accountability and public interest at all stages.

Congress protests against gas price hike

UDUPI

Block Congress Committee and Youth Congress Committee in Karkala staged a protest in front of the taluk office in Udupi district today against the hike in gas prices. Party leaders and workers expressed anger over the central government's price hike. Speaking on the occasion Congress leader Uday Shetty Muniyalu criticised the BJP government which came to power with the promise of achche din and said it had given koche din to the people.

Minor dies following parental relationship objections

RAMANAGARA

A 15-year-old boy in Channapatna town of Ramanagara district died by suicide after consuming poison following a family dispute over his relationship with an older woman. The incident occurred in Rajakempegowda locality and came to light on May 4 after earlier treatment attempts failed and the boy passed away on May 4, 2026. According to police the boy had fallen in love with a 26-year-old woman named Shobha from Bidadi and his parents had objected due to the age difference and advised him to end the relationship. Despite this the boy reportedly continued contacting her through social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Instagram which created further tension at home. He had earlier attempted suicide on April 29 after an argument and was first treated at Channapatna Taluk Hospital before being shifted to a private hospital in Bengaluru for advanced care. However he died on May 4 after his condition worsened despite medical efforts. Following his death the boy's parents lodged a complaint alleging that the woman was responsible and police have registered an FIR against her at Channapatna Rural Police Station. Police said investigation is ongoing and statements are being collected from family members friends and others connected to the case to understand the circumstances leading to the tragic incident in detail.

Shidlaghatta to host grand Rama Shobha Yatra

SHIDLAGHATTA

A grand Sri Rama Shobha Yatra will be held in Shidlaghatta on June 7, with organisers announcing that preparations are underway to make the event large and devotional in nature. Posters for the programme were released at Sri Rama Temple in Fort Circle by Sri Rama Shobha Yatra Observance Trust.

Trust taluk president Venkatesh said the Shobha Yatra is aimed at bringing people together and promoting unity among Hindus. He said the motto "We are all Hindus, we are all one" should be followed in practice through such community events.

KMDC offers major relief for borrowers

KOLAR

The Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation KMDC has announced an interest waiver and One Time Settlement OTS scheme for eligible minority loan beneficiaries in the state According to KMDC District Manager Shirin Taj the scheme covers loans taken between financial years 2013 -14 and 2018 -19 The initiative aims to reduce financial burden and help beneficiaries clear long pending dues Under this scheme borrowers who repay the principal loan amount will get full waiver of interest. The government has fixed the implementation period from May 1 to July 31 2026 Beneficiaries can also repay in three instalments with 25 percent in May another 25 percent in June and remaining 50 percent in July Shirin Taj appealed to all eligible borrowers to use the opportunity and contact nearest KMDC office for details She said the scheme will support economic stability and self reliance of minority communities She urged beneficiaries not to miss the benefit and complete payments within the deadline to avoid additional financial stress The corporation expects hundreds of families to benefit from this scheme and improve their economic condition through timely settlement She also said the government initiative is expected to reduce loan default rates and strengthen financial discipline among borrowers.

Officials have asked all eligible people to approach KMDC offices for support and guidance during the scheme period effectively and on time across Karnataka.

River opens its first store in Shivamogga

SHIVAMOGGA

Electric scooter maker River Mobility has opened its first store in Shivamogga, marking its entry into the city. The new River Store on BH Road was inaugurated by former Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister K. S. Eshwarappa in partnership with MAG Enterprises. The store will provide test rides, sales, accessories, and full service support for customers. River is expanding across Karnataka and already runs 14 stores in cities like Bengaluru, Belagavi,

Hubballi, Mangaluru, Mysuru, and Tumakuru. The company is also growing in other parts of India through company outlets and dealer partnerships. In April, Karnataka made up over 26 percent of River's total sales, making it its second largest EV market. The River Indie scooter is designed for daily use with good storage, all-weather comfort, and practical range.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ISSUE

KPCC slams delay women's reservation implementation bill

BENGALURU

KPCC South District Campaign Committee convener Mrs. Krupa Alva said that even though the Women's Reservation Bill was passed in Parliament in 2023 the Central Government is delaying its implementation She spoke at a media conference in Bengaluru and accused government of misleading people on women's empowerment She said not implementing the 33 percent reservation even after

Parliament approval is an injustice to women She demanded immediate action from the Centre to fulfil its promise.

She also raised concerns over constituency delimitation being planned before reservation is implemented She warned that population based delimitation could change the political balance in several constituencies She said Bengaluru may face social and political imbalance if changes are made without care She added that delaying women's reservation goes against constitutional values and weakens democracy She criticised the Centre for prioritising political benefits over women's rights.

KPCC leaders R Arun Kumar Dinesh Prasad Mallikarjun Amarnath Nagaveni Krishnamurthy and Bhagya were present at the press meet They supported the demand for quick implementation of the bill They said women must get equal political opportunities They urged Centre to avoid further delay and respect women representation rights Speakers said the issue is important for future of Indian democracy They called for fair delimitation process that does not harm women or smaller regions They hoped for early justice to women voters nationwide.

Chitradurga gears up for grand BSY tribute event

CHITRADURGA

Preparations are in full swing in Kotenad, Chitradurga, for a major "Abhimanotsava" event being organised to honour former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa. The programme is scheduled to be held on May 9 at the spacious ground behind Madara Chennaiah Mutt.Party workers and supporters of Yediyurappa, who is credited with building the BJP's base in South India, are organising the event as a tribute to his long political journey. Organisers said the celebration is meant to recognise his role in mentoring leaders and strengthening the party across the state.A large stage and a special German-style pandal are being set up at the venue. Preparations for seating, food, and crowd management are being carried out on a large scale. Local MLA S R Gupta visited the site and reviewed the arrangements. Several leaders including Vishwanath, Munirathna, and Gopalaiah also inspected the preparations and discussed event planning with organisers.

QUICK READ

Temple land proposal sparks village action

HUNSUR

In Maradur village of Hunsur taluk, officials and temple committee members have moved to identify land for Venugol Swamy Temple. The proposed site measures 200 feet east-west and 100 feet north-south. Development Officer Dharmedra, Administrative Officer Nagaraj, and Seva Samiti members inspected and planned to send a proposal to the Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer for reservation of the land. Earlier, villagers had requested allocation of major temple land. Elders and committee members including Satish, Murthy, Lokesh, Siddalingappa, Prasanna and Srikanthu attended. Authorities have urged government approval for further action and preservation of temple.

Major job fair to boost opportunities in Haveri

Haveri

A job fair will be held on May 9, 2026, at college premises from 9:30 am. It is organised by Chetana Business School and Goodleppa Hallikeri Colleges to help students and job seekers get opportunities. The aim is to connect rural youth with companies and improve employment chances through campus recruitment. Many companies including Med Plus Pharma, ESSVEE Recruit-Tech, Koravi Developers, Dev Matrix Digital Solutions, Muthoot Finance, Koti Steel and Proficient Minds will participate. The program will be inaugurated by M C Kolli, Director of KLE Society, Belgaum, placement directors and officials attending.

Special Puja prayed for Sudhakar's health recovery

CHALLAKERE

Religious rituals were held at Panchamukeshwar Temple in Challakere for the speedy recovery of District In-charge Minister D. Sudhakar. Devotees performed Mrityunjaya Homa, Rudrabhishek, Navagraha Shanti, Anjaneya Sahasranama and Ganapati puja. The program was led by Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sanstha leaders and Congress workers under Smt Usha Chandrakumar. She said the minister is a leader who works for Dalits, backward classes and minorities in the district. Priests Thyagaraja Joshi and Subrahmanya Swamiji conducted the rituals. Many Congress workers including Shivshankar, Nagaratna, Geetha and Mallamma attended the ceremony. Devotees prayed for his early recovery and continued public service.

KSDL invites public tech to protect sandalwood

Minister said KSDL will fund anti-theft tech for farmers, with awards for growers, police, forest staff, informants

BENGALURU

Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) has announced a new initiative to protect sandalwood trees and reduce theft across the state said Large and Medium Industries Minister M. B. Patil on Thursday.Under this plan farmers scientists and organisations are invited to share new machines or ideas that can help stop sandalwood theft.They will be allowed to show their technology to KSDL officials and if it works well the government will consider using it and support its rollout.Minister Patil said KSDL will bear the cost of adopting useful anti-theft technologies to protect farmers who grow sandalwood on their land.To encourage cultivation four top sandalwood supplying farmers will be honoured on June 4 the birth anniversary of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

On the same day police and forest staff who have worked hard to catch sandalwood thieves will also be rewarded along with citizens who gave helpful information.

He said theft of sandalwood has been a long-standing problem and even though strict laws exist convictions remain low in many cases.

In this situation the organisation must support farmers with both legal help and modern technology so that more people feel safe to grow sandalwood.

So far in the last three years KSDL has bought 174.5 metric tonnes of sandalwood from farmers and paid ₹6.08 crore directly into their bank accounts.Officials said the aim of the programme is to protect valuable sandalwood trees support farmers and strengthen Karnataka's famous Mysuru sandal soap industry through innovation and public participation.They added that community involvement and new technology will play a key role in reducing illegal cutting of trees and increasing trust between farmers and government agencies. The initiative is also expected to create better income opportunities for growers and ensure steady supply of raw material for KSDL in the coming years.

It further stated that KSDL remains committed to working with farmers experts and security agencies to protect sandalwood resources reduce theft cases and promote sustainable cultivation practices across Karnataka while encouraging innovation-driven solutions from the public for long-term benefits and strengthen rural economy and farmer confidence in Karnataka state.

Ramanagara MLA launches road drainage works project

RAMANAGARA

MLA said CM Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar sanctioned special grants for urban and minority welfare, with multiple schemes underway and more works planned soon

Ramanagara MLA H A Iqbal Hussain on Thursday launched road and drainage development works in Vivekanandanagar, stating that the area is being upgraded with better basic facilities under a new grant of about Rs 5 crore. He performed the traditional shovel ritual before starting works near Rayaradoddy Circle and BGS Circle.

Speaking to reporters, the MLA said Vivekanandanagar is a large ward that requires continuous development and more funding. He said several works have already been taken up in the area after he became MLA, and fresh projects are now being started again to improve roads and drainage systems.

He added that priority is being given not only to rural development but also to urban infrastructure, especially in fast-growing city areas. According to him, basic needs such as education, health, housing, and transport infrastructure are being focused on to improve living conditions. He assured that quality roads would be constructed under the new works.

The MLA also said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar have sanctioned special development grants, including funds for urban and minority welfare projects. He mentioned that multiple schemes worth several crores are being implemented in the region and more works will begin soon.

He instructed officials and contractors to maintain quality and complete works on time. During the event, a few local leaders from the JD(S) also joined the Congress party in the presence of the MLA.

The programme was attended by several public representatives, municipal officials, and local leaders who welcomed the development works and expressed hope for improved civic facilities in the ward in the coming months.

Rain brings relief from scorching heat in Yadrami

YADRAMI

Moderate rain in Yadrami on Thursday evening brought relief to people suffering from heat for past two months. Clouds formed in evening and rain fell in several parts of taluk for about one hour cooling weather. Since morning sun was strong in many areas including Yadrami town. After four pm thick clouds covered sky and rain started. Rain also fell in nearby villages with wind, thunder and lightning. Farmers said rain gave moisture to soil helping agricultural work and pre monsoon preparation. Weather in town became cooler after rain improving local conditions for residents.

Protesters demand closure of factories polluting Tungabhadra, relocation of sponge iron units, rehabilitation package, and scientific health study

Protest against Baldota enters 189th day

KOPPAL

The ongoing protest demanding removal of Baldota MSPL pellet unit in Koppal has completed 189 days at the Municipal Council Grounds. Residents and activists say the plant operating since 2011 near the city is causing heavy pollution and harming public health. They are demanding immediate closure of the unit and protection of local people and livestock. They also want Basapura Lake to be kept clean and made available for drinking water for people and animals.

Protesters have called for sealing of factories polluting the Tungabhadra River and relocation of sponge iron units near Hirebaganal and Allahnagar. They have also demanded a special rehabilitation package for twenty-two affected villages and a scientific study of health and environmental damage. The study has been urged to be conducted by reputed institutions such as AIIMS and IISc for accurate assessment.

The agitation is being led by joint action groups including Koppal District Bachao Andolan and Pasaraya Hitrakshana Vedike along with several local activists and community members present at the site. Locals said the prolonged agitation reflects deep concern over environmental safety and public health in the region and urged the government to take immediate action and implement scientific solutions to control industrial pollution and protect water bodies and ensure sustainable development for future generations in Koppal district.

Udupi district intensifies sanitation drive before monsoon

KARKALA

With the southwest monsoon expected to arrive soon, authorities in Udupi district have intensified a district-wide pre-monsoon sanitation campaign to prevent disease outbreaks and improve cleanliness.

The "Pre-Monsoon Cleanliness Campaign" has been launched under the guidance of the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayat and is currently being implemented in most gram panchayat areas across the district.Officials stated that 142 of the district's 155 gram panchayats are actively participating in the drive. So far, sanitation work covering 1,35,143 metres has been completed and nearly 22,998 kg of dry waste has been cleared.The campaign focuses on cleaning drains, roadsides, public areas and stagnant water spots to ensure smooth drainage during monsoon and reduce mosquito breeding. Authorities are also giving importance to reducing plastic pollution.Among all taluks, Kundapura has recorded the highest progress. More than 46,000 metres of area has been cleaned and over 5,500 kg of plastic waste collected there.Officials further said Hebri and Byndoor taluks have achieved full participation from all gram panchayats.The district administration has also initiated strict enforcement against littering and improper waste disposal. A total fine of Rs 38,700 has been collected from 17 violators through gram panchayat officials.

Authorities said the campaign will continue in the coming days to ensure villages remain clean and prepared before heavy rains begin.

UNANNOUNCED LOAD SHEDDING SPARKS OUTRAGE AMONG UDUPI RESIDENTS

UDUPI

Continuous and unannounced power cuts in several parts of Udupi district have triggered public outrage, with residents alleging that unofficial load shedding is being carried out without prior intimation.Over the last four to five days, residents have been facing repeated electricity interruptions at different times of the day and night. Consumers say power supply is being disrupted during morning, afternoon, late-night and early morning hours, severely affecting normal life.The frequent outages are impacting homes, offices, businesses and industries. Citizens say the situation has become especially difficult due to the ongoing summer season when dependence on cooling appliances such as fans and air conditioners is very high.

Residents pointed out that power cuts are normally expected during heavy rain, lightning or strong winds when transformers or electric lines get damaged. However, they alleged that the current disruptions are happening despite stable weather conditions.Public anger is particularly visible in urban localities such as Manipal, Indrali, Kunjibettu, Eshwarnagar, Kukkikatte and Doddanagudde where electricity supply interruptions have reportedly increased in recent days.Consumers questioned how rural areas would be coping if even major urban centres are facing frequent outages.

People said that though scheduled maintenance shutdowns by Mangalore Electricity Supply Company (MESCOM) are acceptable, the absence of prior information regarding emergency power cuts has caused major inconvenience.Meanwhile, MESCOM officials clarified that some interruptions were caused after a transformer malfunction at Nittur station. Executive Engineer K. Prasanna Kumar said the damaged transformer has now been repaired and electricity supply is being restored gradually.

Prof KH Belur praises Basavanna humanist philosophy

GADAG

Prof KH Belur said that Basavanna is a great humanist who gave early ideas of democracy and equality. He was speaking at a monthly Shivanubhava program in Gadag where Buddha Basava and Ambedkar jayanthi was celebrated. He said Basavanna's Kayaka philosophy teaches dignity of work and equality for all people. He added that Basavanna remains a cultural leader not only for Karnataka but for the world. He said Buddha teachings promote peace and non violence and Dr B R Ambedkar provided a strong constitution for India through knowledge and reading. He also said that celebrating great leaders should not be limited to rituals but their ideas must reach students and society. Former civic leader Shankar Hangal said photo based celebrations are not enough and true respect comes when ideas are practiced in daily life especially among children.

STORMWATER SAFETY PUSH

Bengaluru South orders urgent drain cleaning ahead of monsoon

BENGALURU

With the monsoon season approaching, Bengaluru South City Corporation has issued strict directions for immediate cleaning of stormwater drains to prevent flooding and related disasters. Commissioner K N Ramesh personally inspected desilting work near Sindhoora Kalyana Mantapa on the Outer Ring Road at Sarakki in J P Nagar.During the inspection, the Commissioner instructed engineers to remove all silt and waste from drains and stormwater channels without delay. He also ordered the removal of slabs covering roadside drains so that cleaning can be carried out effectively. Officials were told to ensure that garbage and weeds inside the drains are completely cleared.

He further directed that plastic waste collected at bridge junctions in Rajakaluves must be removed regularly, warning that such blockages can seriously affect water flow during heavy rains. He emphasized that continuous cleaning in sensitive locations is necessary to avoid flooding in residential areas.At the same time, the Disaster Management team led by Additional Commissioner (Development) Dr Naveen Kumar Raju carried out inspections across Bommanahalli Zone. The team visited several flood-prone locations including HSR Layout 1st Main Road, 14th Cross, Madiwala Lake, Oxford College surroundings, and Anugraha Layout.Officials reviewed the condition of stormwater drains, water flow levels, and encroachments in canal areas. The Additional Commissioner instructed departments to speed up desilting work and take preventive steps to handle possible rain-related emergencies.Disaster Management Advisor Dr Vinutha and field engineers were also present during the inspection.Officials said the ongoing works are aimed at reducing waterlogging problems and ensuring better safety for residents during heavy rainfall in Bengaluru city this monsoon season.

Petition filed against BSNL official in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA

A petition was submitted to District Collector Dr. Anand K. and BSNL senior officials in Bengaluru by farmer and Dalit organisations along with Aam Aadmi Party leaders demanding action against a BSNL official over alleged violation of government conduct rules during birthday celebrations at the office and disrespect shown to Dr B R Ambedkar. Leaders said the Deputy General Manager of BSNL Vijayapura allegedly celebrated his birthday inside the government office which they claimed violated rules and also hurt sentiments during Ambedkar Jayanti events.

They further alleged that a portrait of Dr Ambedkar was placed near the footpath area of the office while the official birthday celebration was held in an air conditioned hall inside the same premises which they termed disrespectful Activists from Akhand Karnataka Raitha Sangh Aam Aadmi Party Dalit Sangharsh Samiti and Valmiki organisations submitted a memorandum to the Collector and also staged a protest outside the BSNL office demanding suspension and legal action against the concerned officer They stated that such acts undermine the respect of Dr B R Ambedkar who is regarded as the architect of the Constitution and appealed for strict disciplinary action.

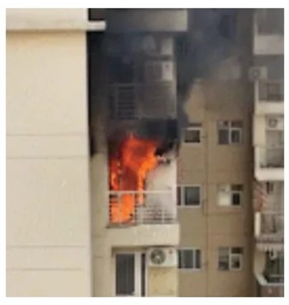
Officials and party representatives including Bhogesh Solapur Basavaraj Siddapur and others were present during the submission of the petition and urged authorities to take immediate action in Vijayapura.

QUICK READ

Former Punjab DGPs hail 'Operation Sindoor'

Chandigarh

Marking the first anniversary of 'Operation Sindoor', former Punjab DGPs on Thursday hailed the military action as a decisive and successful response by India to terrorism, while stressing the need for sustained vigilance, public awareness, and evolving security preparedness to counter future threats from Pakistan. Former Punjab DGP S.S. Virk told that the operation was launched in response to the earlier Pahalgam incident and involved deep strikes by the Indian Air Force inside Pakistan's territory. In response to earlier events in Pahalgam, the Government of India carried out Operation Sindoor inside Pakistan. It was a successful operation.



AC blast triggers massive fire in Noida house

Greater Noida

A massive fire broke out at a residential house in Greater Noida's Sector Beta 1 after an air conditioner reportedly exploded, creating panic among residents in the locality. No casualties were reported during this, officials said on Thursday According to officials, the incident took place at around 10:15 p.m. on Wednesday at house number E-166, which belongs to Amit Kumar. Preliminary information suggested that the fire started on the first floor of the house before rapidly spreading through the building, leaving the occupants with very little time to respond. As flames engulfed the structure, members of the family rushed downstairs to save themselves. Within a short span of time, the blaze intensified and spread across the entire house, destroying household belongings and reducing much of the property to ashes.

NDA leaders show strength at Gandhi Maidan

32 leaders from the ruling NDA were sworn in as Bihar ministers during a grand ceremony

PATNA

The cabinet led by Samrat Chaudhary witnessed a major expansion on Thursday as 32 leaders from the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) were sworn in as ministers during a grand ceremony held at Gandhi Maidan.

The large-scale swearing-in ceremony turned into a major political event in Bihar, drawing the presence of several senior NDA leaders and thousands of party supporters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and former Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar attended the event, highlighting the political significance of the cabinet reshuffle.

One of the key highlights of the expansion was the inclusion of several fresh faces in the state government. The (Janata Dal (United) inducted three new leaders into the cabinet — Nishant Kumar, Bulo Mandal, and Shweta Gupta.

Political observers believe the induction of Shweta Gupta reflects an effort by the party to strengthen women's representation within the government and broaden its social outreach.

The Bharatiya Janata Party also introduced four first-time ministers — Mithilesh Tiwari, Ramchandra Paswan, Nand Kishore Ram, and Engineer Shailendra. Through these appointments, the BJP appears to have focused on expanding its representation among different social and regional

groups. The final distribution of ministerial positions reflected careful alliance management within the NDA. Of the 32 ministers inducted, 15 belong to the BJP quota, while 13 ministers represent JD(U). Two positions were allotted to the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), one to the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), and one to the Rashtriya Lok Morcha led by Upendra Kushwaha.

Political analysts view the cabinet expansion as a strategic move aimed at maintaining unity among NDA allies while preparing for upcoming electoral battles in Bihar and at the national level. The inclusion of both experienced leaders and newcomers is also being seen as an attempt to strengthen the alliance's social and political base across the state. The reconstruction of the temple played a key role in restoring national confidence and cultural self-respect.

According to the Chief Minister, the shrine has remained an enduring example of India's ability to preserve its traditions despite centuries of challenges. He added that the Somnath temple continues to inspire generations through its historical and spiritual importance.

The Chief Minister further said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is progressing with a vision that combines development with preservation of heritage. He emphasised that economic growth and cultural revival are being pursued simultaneously to strengthen India's identity on the global stage

The 'Somnath Swabhiman Yatra' is expected to continue in multiple phases, enabling devotees from different parts of Madhya Pradesh to undertake the spiritual journey to one of Hinduism's most revered pilgrimage centres.

Devajit Saikia resigns as Assam Advocate General

GUWAHATI

Senior legal officer steps down ahead of formation of new NDA government in Assam state. Devajit Saikia on Thursday announced his resignation from the post of Advocate General of Assam following the completion of the tenure of the present state government led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

In a statement shared on X, Saikia said he had submitted his resignation on Wednesday in accordance with constitutional traditions and established practices followed after the end of a government's term. He stated that his nearly five-year tenure as the state's top law officer had formally concluded with the completion of the current administration's tenure.

Saikia said that upholding constitutional conventions was important and therefore he chose to step down before the formation of the next government. He described his period in office as an "immense honour and privilege" and expressed gratitude to the political leadership, legal fraternity, and government officials for their support and cooperation during his tenure.

The senior legal officer thanked the Chief Minister, members of the Council of Ministers, government departments, fellow advocates, and judicial authorities for placing their trust in him over the years. He added that serving Assam in the constitutional position of Advocate General had been one of the most significant responsibilities of his professional career.

During his tenure, Saikia represented the Assam government in several major constitutional, administrative, and legal matters before different courts. He played a prominent role in handling important litigation involving the state government and was regarded as one of the key legal faces of the administration.

Apart from his responsibilities in the legal field, Saikia is also associated with Indian cricket administration. He currently serves as secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India and has remained actively involved in cricket management for several years.

His resignation comes just days before the swearing-in ceremony of the new BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government in Assam, which is scheduled to take place on May 12 in Guwahati.

Political observers believe the resignation follows a long-standing constitutional convention in which Advocate Generals often step down following the conclusion of a government's tenure, allowing the incoming administration to appoint its own chief legal advisor.

Leaders laud armed forces on 'Op Sindoor' anniversary

AMRAWATI

N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday said that Operation Sindoor sent a strong message to the world that India would never tolerate attacks on its soil and that any harm caused to Indian citizens would receive a firm response.

Marking the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister shared a message on X, describing the military operation as a symbol of India's growing defence capabilities and determination to safeguard national security against every threat.

Naidu paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the Pahalgam terrorist attack and praised the Indian Armed Forces for delivering what he described as a befitting response through Operation Sindoor. He stated that the courage and sacrifice of security personnel continue to inspire the nation.

S. Abdul Nazeer also extended heartfelt salutations to the bravery, commitment, and dedication of India's security forces. He said Operation Sindoor stood as a symbol of national pride, justice, and unwavering resolve against forces attempting to challenge the unity and sovereignty of the country.

According to the Governor, the operation served as a strong warning to enemies of the nation and highlighted the determination of India's armed forces to defend the country under all circumstances. He further expressed gratitude to soldiers for their sacrifices and tireless service.

State Minister for Education and Information Technology Nara Lokesh also commemorated the anniversary by praising the armed forces for their courage, precision, and selfless service. In his social media post, Lokesh said the operation demonstrated India's unwavering commitment to protecting its sovereignty and ensuring the safety of its citizens.

Lokesh additionally thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for what he described as calm and decisive leadership during a defining period for the nation. He stated that India remains united and strong in the face of security challenges.

Meanwhile, Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy also honoured the courage and determination of Indian soldiers. He said the anniversary of Operation Sindoor was an occasion to remember the fearless spirit and unwavering dedication of the armed forces, whose valour continues to inspire pride across the country.

Operation Sindoor is widely regarded as one of the significant military responses undertaken by India in recent years, and political leaders across party lines used the anniversary to reaffirm support for the armed forces and national security.

Cracks in CPI-M, Jayarajan steps in as dissent grows against Vijayan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

For perhaps the first time in nearly three decades, the unquestioned authority of Pinarayi Vijayan within the CPI-M and the Left movement in Kerala is facing open turbulence from within party ranks.

Days after the crushing Assembly poll debacle that reduced the CPI-M-led Left Democratic Front to just 35 seats, senior party leader P. Jayarajan broke his silence amid a growing wave of support for him and mounting anger against the present state leadership.

In a carefully worded Facebook post, Jayarajan appealed to CPI-M cadres to stop social media campaigns glorifying him while simultaneously attacking sections of the party leadership.

The intervention assumes significance at a time when both Vijayan and State CPI-M Secretary M.V. Govindan are facing unprecedented criticism from within the party after the Left's worst ever electoral humiliation in Kerala.

In Kannur, long regarded as the ideological fortress of the CPI-M, posters surfaced demanding Jayarajan's return to leadership.

One prominently displayed slogan read, "Call P. Jayarajan, save the party."

There is also growing resentment among cadres against Kannur district secretary K.K. Ragesh, with many openly demanding a complete overhaul of the state and district leadership.

Jayarajan, however, attempted to rein in the rebellion.

Drawing a contrast with the Congress culture of raising slogans such as "Call Indira, call Sonia, save the Congress", he reminded party workers that Communist organisational discipline was fundamentally different.

He urged cadres to avoid airing differences publicly through social media and instead raise criticism within party forums.

NITI Aayog gives policy roadmap for school edu system

NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog has released a policy report that presents a comprehensive, decade-long analysis of India's school education system across key parameters such as access and enrolment, infrastructure, equity and inclusion, and learning outcomes, it was announced on Thursday. NITI Aayog CEO Nidhi Chhibber released the report, titled 'School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement'. The report provides a detailed policy roadmap comprising 13 comprehensive recommendations.

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In The Court Of District and Session Judge , District Court, Ujjain
Presiding Officer: श्री पूरनचंद्र गुप्ता
(आदेश 5 नियम 20 व्यवहार प्रक्रिया संहिता 1908 के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशन हेतु)
(RCA/0000018/2026)
सुशील गुप्ता.....वादी
Vs
मेसर्स थिंक एंड लर्न प्रायवेट लिमिटेड मार्फत सीइ ओ बायजू.....प्रतिवादी
Process Id- /2026
पेशी दिनांक :- 18/06/2026

प्रेषिती-

(1)मेसर्स थिंक एंड लर्न प्रायवेट लिमिटेड मार्फत सीइ ओ बायजू पिता रविन्द्रन पता-आई बी सी नालेज पार्क 4/1द्वितीय तल टावर डी बन्नेरघटटा मेन रोड बेंगलुरू560029
(2)श्री रिजु पिता बायजू रवीन्द्रन पता- आई बी सी नालेज पार्क 4/1द्वितीय तल टावर डी बन्नेरघटटा मेन रोड बेंगलुरू560029
(3)श्रीमती दिव्या गोकुलनाथ पति बायजू रविन्द्रन पता- आई बी सी नालेज पार्क 4/1द्वितीय तल टावर डी बन्नेरघटटा मेन रोड बेंगलुरू560029
(4)श्री बायजू पिता रवीन्द्रन पता- आई बी सी नालेज पार्क 4/1द्वितीय तल टावर डी बन्नेरघटटा मेन रोड बेंगलुरू560029

यह कि प्रार्थीगण क्रं.1 **सुशील गुप्ता पिता स्व.श्री रामबाबू गुप्ता, उम्र-73 वर्ष, व्यवसाय- चिकित्सक, क्रं.2 श्रीमती सुधा गुप्ता पत्नि सुशील गुप्ता, उम्र-72 वर्ष, व्यवसाय- गृहिणी, निवासीगण- एस एस हॉस्पिटल एवं रिसर्च सेंटर 76, विक्रम मार्ग फ्रीगंज उज्जैन, क्रं.3 सुश्री अपूर्वा गुप्ता पुत्री श्री सुशील गुप्ता, उम्र-45 वर्ष, व्यवसाय- गृहणी, निवासी- गृह क्रमांक 1 विश्व ज्योति सहकारी समिति सूरज आई इंस्टीट्यूट के सामने, न्यू कालोनी नागपुर महाराष्ट्र, क्रं.4 मयंक गुप्ता पिता श्री सुशील गुप्ता, उम्र-47 वर्ष, व्यवसाय-चिकित्सक, निवासी- एस एस हॉस्पिटल एवं रिसर्च सेंटर 76, विक्रम मार्ग फ्रीगंज उज्जैन की ओर से न्यायालय चतुर्थ व्यवहार न्यायाधीश, वरिष्ठ खण्ड जिला उज्जैन अधिष्ठाता श्री अनुराग शर्मा द्वारा प्रकरण क्रमांक 7/2025 सुशील गुप्ता आदि वि. मेसर्स थिंक एंड लर्न प्राईवेट लिमिटेड आदि दिनांक 21/01/2026 के विरुद्ध इस न्यायालय के समक्ष एक रेग्युलर सिविल अपील अंतर्गत धारा 96 सहपठित आदेश 41 नियम 1 सीपीसी प्रथम अपील संस्थित की है**, आपको इस न्यायालय में सूचना के प्रकाशन के **30 दिवस** के भीतर वाद का उत्तर देने के लिये उपसंजात /हाजिर होने के लये सम्मन किया जाता है, आप न्यायालय में स्वयं या किसी ऐसे प्लीडर (अधिवक्ता) द्वारा उपसंजात हो सकते है, जिसे सम्यक अनुदेश दिये गये हो और जो इस वाद में संबंधित सभी सारवान कथनों का उत्तर दे सके। आपको यह निर्देश भी दिया जाता है कि उस दिन अपनी प्रतिरक्षा का लिखित कथन प्रस्तुत करें और उस दिन ऐसे सब दस्तावेज जो आपके कब्जे या शक्ति में है पेश करें जिन पर आपका प्रतिरक्षा या मूजराई का दावा या प्रतिदावा आधारित हो, और यदि आप अन्य किसी दस्तावेज पर चाहे वह आपके कब्जे या शक्ति में हो अपनी प्रतिरक्षा या मुजरा के दावे या प्रतिदावे के समर्थन में साक्ष्य के रूप में निर्भर करते है तो ऐसी सभी दस्तावेज की लिखित कथन के साथ उपलब्ध की जाने वाली सूची में प्रविष्टि करें।

आपको सूचित किया जाता है कि यदि आप उपर बताई गई अवधि में इस न्यायालय में उपस्थित नहीं होंगे तो वाद की एक पक्षीय सुनवाई कर उसका निपटारा आपकी अनुपस्थिति में किया जायेगा। साथ ही यह भी सूचित किया जाता है कि यदि आप निराकरण मध्यस्थ के माध्यम से करने के इच्छुक हैं तो पीठासीन अधिकारी को अवगत करावें|

यह आज तारीख **05 May 2026** को मेरे हस्ताक्षर से और न्यायालय की मुद्रा लगा कर दिया गया है ।

न्यायालय की मुद्रा

(पी.पी.गुप्ता)
प्रधान न्यायाधीश

about:blank

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.
No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-02/TS/2026-27 Date: 05.05.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.02/2026-27
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Short Term Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Rural, under TND No. 02/2026-27-Hon'ble Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme (CMIDP) Head of Account. The work details can be obtained from the KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **15.05.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/555/SMCL/2026-27

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.
No. DGM-2/BSWML/Corr- 01/2026-27 Date:07-05-2026
CORRIGENDUM- 01

Sub: Extension of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.
Ref: This office Tender Notification No. DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/03/2026-27, Dated: 02.05.2026.
As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to Administrative and Technical reasons.
Time schedule /calendar of events:

Sl. No.	Description	As per tender notification	Extended dates to be read as
1	Pre bid meeting	On 12.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs.	On 18.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs.
2	Last date and time for uploading qualification documents	On 22.05.2026 up-to 16:00 hrs.	On 29.05.2026 up-to 16:00 hrs.
3	Opening of tender date and time	On 25.05.2026 at 16:30 hrs.	On 30.05.2026 at 16:30 hrs.

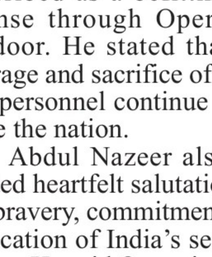
For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML

DIPR/CP/565/NR/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
NOTIFICATION

Online Technical Proposals are invited from eligible Firms / Companies / LLPs / Partnership Firms / Co-operative Societies for procurement and supply of **INDIRA AHARA KITS** comprising Tur Dal, Sunflower Oil, Sugar, Iodized Salt and Kit Bags under **Anna Bhagya Scheme** through **e-Auction** on **NCDEX e Markets Ltd. (NeML) Platform.**



Estimated Value	Rs. 3135 Crores (Approx.)
Contract Period	6 Months
No. of Divisions	5 Divisions
Mode	e-Auction through NeML

IMPORTANT DATES

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date & Time
1.	Publication of Notification	07-05-2026
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	11-05-2026 at 11:30 AM
3.	Last Date for Uploading Technical Proposals	15-05-2026 up to 5:30 PM
4.	Last Date for Submission of Samples with NABL Test Reports	16-05-2026 up to 5:00 PM
5.	Opening of Technical Proposals	18-05-2026 after 10:00 AM
6.	Publishing of Eligible Bidders list on NeML Portal	25-05-2026
7.	Last Date for Submission of any Grievances about the Eligible Bidders list	29-05-2026 up to 5:30 PM
8.	Tentative Date & Time of e-Auction	03-06-2026, 11:00 AM onwards

For detailed document, eligibility criteria, technical specifications, terms & conditions and other information, bidders are advised to visit: **www.neml.in**

ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION
Office of The Commissioner,
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department,
#8, Cunningham Road, 5th Floor,
Sahakara Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560 052.
080-22262187
askus@neml.in / indiraaharakit@gmail.com

Ensuring Food Security • Transparency • Fairness

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

Revanth Reddy's convoy travels in regular traffic in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Thursday travelled through regular traffic in Hyderabad, a day after directing police not to stop vehicles for his convoy movement. After returning from New Delhi, his convoy moved from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad to his residence in Jubilee Hills without complete traffic stoppages. The Chief Minister had instructed senior police officials on Wednesday to avoid measures causing inconvenience to the public during convoy movement. Following the directive, traffic police allowed vehicles to continue moving in a single lane instead of imposing full roadblocks. Director General of Police C.V. Anand said the Chief Minister emphasised that the public should not be forced to wait on roads for long periods because of VIP movement. Revanth Reddy expressed concern over severe congestion near the airport while travelling to Delhi on Wednesday and directed the DGP to take action against officials responsible for lapses. He also instructed police not to stop vehicles coming from the opposite direction unnecessarily and to regulate traffic in a way that minimises inconvenience to commuters.

COALITION TALKS INTENSIFY AMID TN POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

Regional allies hold key influence as major parties explore possible post-election alli-ances

CHENNAI

The political landscape in Tamil Nadu has entered a crucial phase as the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi emerge as decisive forces in determining the formation of the next government in the state.

Their support is expected to play a pivotal role in deciding whether actor-politician C. Joseph Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) can secure power or whether an alter-native arrangement involving the DMK and AIADMK may take shape.

Amid the ongoing uncertainty following the Assembly election results, M. K. Stalin on Thursday held a series of high-level discussions with CPI-M State Secretary P. Shanmugam, CPI State Secretary M. Veerapandian, and VCK president Thol. Thirumavalavan at his residence on Cenotaph Road in Chennai.

According to sources familiar with the discussions, Stalin explored the possibility of the DMK extending support to the AIADMK in an effort to facilitate government formation and prevent prolonged political instability in the state. The move is being viewed as a significant development in Tamil Nadu politics, considering the traditional rivalry be-tween the two Dravidian parties.

The current political deadlock has arisen because no party or alliance has succeeded in crossing the majority mark of 118 seats in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly. With numbers falling short for all major contenders, smaller parties and allies have suddenly gained immense importance in the post-election scenario.

The CPI-M, CPI, and VCK together hold six MLAs, making their collective decision cru-cial in the ongoing political negotiations. Sources indicated that leaders of both com-munist parties informed Stalin that their respective state committees would deliberate on the issue during meetings scheduled for Friday before arriving at a final decision.

Political observers believe the coming days could witness intense backroom negotia-tions as parties attempt to stitch together a stable coalition government in Tamil Nadu.

Op Sindoor destroyed terror bases: Air Marshal

JAIPUR

Indian armed forces inflicted heavy damage on Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, senior Air Force officer reveals

Awadhesh Kumar Bharti, who served as the Director General of Air Operations during last year's Operation Sindoor, on Thursday stated that Indian armed forces shot down 13 Pakistani aircraft and damaged 11 enemy airfields during the high-intensity military campaign.

Addressing a press conference in Jaipur on the anniversary of Operation Sindoor, the Deputy Chief of Air Staff said the operation was a decisive response against terrorism and military threats originating from Pakistan. According to him, Indian forces also de-stroyed nine terrorist hideouts located inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir during the operation.

Air Marshal Bharti asserted that despite the scale of the military action, India success-fully ensured that no damage occurred to its civilian or military infrastructure. He high-lighted the precision and coordination demonstrated by the Indian armed forces throughout the operation.

He further revealed that the Army, Navy, and Air Force leadership worked in complete coordination and that the armed forces were granted full operational freedom by the government. Every major strategic decision, he said, was taken jointly by the three ser-vices to ensure maximum effectiveness and minimal collateral damage.

"When our desire for peace is mistaken for weakness, we have no choice but to act. And when we act, there is no room for leniency. It is decisive, lethal and translates into Operation Sindoor," the Air Marshal said while explaining the objective behind the mili-tary campaign.

Responding to questions regarding India's decision to agree to a ceasefire after the operation, Bharti acknowledged the emotions and anger among citizens, particularly the younger generation, due to India's past experiences with Pakistan. However, he clarified that the operation was specifically targeted at terrorists and their support infra-structure rather than civilians.

The remarks come amid renewed discussions over India's military preparedness and its policy against cross-border terrorism. Defence analysts believe Operation Sindoor has become a significant example of India's coordinated military capability and strate-gic response in the region.

EC seizes record inducements during state elections

NEW DELHI

Election Commission teams confiscated massive quantities of cash, liquor, drugs, and freebies across poll-bound states. The Election Commission of India has seized more than Rs 1,400 crore worth of illicit inducements during the recently concluded Assembly elections in five states and Union Territories, marking a sharp rise compared to the 2021 state polls.

According to an official statement released on Thursday, flying squads and surveillance teams appointed by the poll body confiscated inducements worth Rs 1,444.96 crore between February 26 and May 6. The amount represents a 40.14 per cent increase over the Rs 1,029.93 crore seized during the Assembly elections held in the same regions in 2021.

Among all states, West Bengal registered the highest increase in seizures, recording a rise of 68.92 per cent compared to the previous election cycle. Tamil Nadu followed closely with a 48.40 per cent increase in confiscated materials.

In West Bengal alone, enforcement teams seized cash worth Rs 31.14 crore, liquor valued at Rs 151.86 crore, drugs worth Rs 130.28 crore, precious metals valued at Rs 69.36 crore, and other freebies worth Rs 190.77 crore. The total seizure figure in the state reached Rs 573.41 crore, making it one of the largest enforcement drives during the elections.

Tamil Nadu reported the highest overall seizure value among the states, with confiscations amounting to Rs 662.28 crore. The seizures included Rs 105.22 crore in cash, liquor worth Rs 4.94 crore, drugs valued at Rs 78.61 crore, precious metals worth Rs 165.86 crore, and various freebies worth Rs 307.65 crore.

Meanwhile, in Kerala, Election Commission flying squads recovered inducement materials worth Rs 80.67 crore. These included cash amounting to Rs 12.12 crore, liquor worth Rs 2.51 crore, drugs valued at Rs 58.47 crore, precious metals worth Rs 2.25 crore, and other freebies worth Rs 5.33 crore.

The Election Commission has significantly strengthened surveillance mechanisms during elec-tions in recent years to curb the use of money power and illegal inducements aimed at influencing voters. Officials said coordinated efforts involving flying squads, static surveillance teams, police personnel, and intelligence units were carried out to monitor suspicious movement of cash, liquor, narcotics, and valuables during the election period.

NCB secures 20-yr jail for 3 drug traf-fickers held in Haryana

PANIPAT

A Special NDPS Court in Haryana's Panipat district sentenced three drug traffickers to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment each in a 2021 interstate charas trafficking case, a Narcotics Crime Bureau (NCB) official said on Thursday.

The Special Court held Mohd. Wali, Mohd. Rehan Shah and Imran Khan, all three res-idents of Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit, guilty under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for carrying 10 kg charas.

While sentencing the accused trio to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment, the court also slapped a penalty of Rs 2 lakh each," an official of NCB's Delhi Zonal Unit said.

The Special court delivered its judgment in the case on May 5, the NCB said in a statement. The case originated on September 28, 2021, when NCB offi-cials, acting on specific intelligence, intercepted three suspects in Panipat. This led to the seizure of 10 kg of charas sourced from Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar, an official statement said.

"The success of the case is attributed to the diligent and meticulous investiga-tion carried out by the NCB. Through effective tracing of backward linkages, the kingpin was identified and apprehended in Jammu as the main supplier, thereby ensuring disruption of the entire supply chain," the federal probe agency said.

This sentencing serves as a powerful deterrent against narco-trafficking, the statement said, adding that it also highlights the NCB's sustained focus on strengthening the quality of prosecution and investigative standards.

Such results contribute significantly to the rising national conviction rate and demon-strate the agency's resolve to seek the maximum penalties under the NDPS Act.

The NCB urged citizens to share information regarding narcotics trafficking through the MANAS – National Narcotics Helpline (Toll-Free Number: 1933), assuring that in-formers' identities will be kept confidential.

NDA LEADERS CONDEMN KILLING OF ADHIKARI'S AIDE

NEW DELHI

The NDA leaders on Thursday condemned the killing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant Chandranath Rath in West Bengal and launched a sharp attack on the Trinamool Congress (TMC) alleging that the state continues to witness political violence and "rule of goons".

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami strongly con-demned the incident and said violence has no place in a democracy. I strongly condemn this unfortunate incident. In a democratic process, there is no place for violence. This attempt to create such an atmosphere is a result of frustra-tion and despair. They (TMC) have been shown the exit door by the people," Dhami said while addressing reporters in Dehradun.

Delhi HC protects Aman Gupta personality rights

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday stated that it would pass an interim order to protect the personality and publicity rights of entrepreneur and Shark Tank In-dia judge Aman Gupta in a case concerning the alleged unauthorised com-mercial use of his identity across multiple digital platforms.

The matter was heard by a single-judge Bench of Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, who indicated that an interim order would be issued after considering submis-sions presented during the hearing. Gupta, widely known as a judge on the popular television show Shark Tank India, is also the co-founder of electronics brand boAt Lifestyle.

Senior Advocate Diya Kapur, appearing on behalf of Gupta and instructed by Advocate Nakul Gandhi, presented before the court a detailed compilation of allegedly infringing material along with copies of previous judicial orders in similar personality rights cases.

During the proceedings, the counsel highlighted several forms of alleged mis-use of Gupta's identity. These reportedly included fake commercial endorse-ments, unauthorised event-booking services using his name, sale of mer-chandise featuring his identity and registered catchphrase "Hum Bhi Bana Lenge," AI chatbots impersonating him, and circulation of vulgar or objection-able content associated with his persona.

The lawsuit, filed before the Commercial Division of the Delhi High Court, al-leges "widespread, systematic and unauthorised commercial exploitation" of Gupta's personality, publicity and trademark rights by unknown entities, digital intermediaries and online platforms.

According to the plaint, Gupta has built considerable goodwill and commercial value around his public image as a successful entrepreneur, investor and me-dia personality.

The suit claims that his name, likeness, voice, mannerisms and distinctive catchphrases possess significant market value and are being illegally exploited without consent.

The legal action also seeks protection for Gupta's registered trademarks, in-cluding the phrases "Hum Bhi Bana Lenge" and "Down, But Not Out!", which have become closely associated with his public appearances and television persona.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-4/TENDER/2026-27/755 DATE: 06/05/2026
Short term E-Re-Tender Notification (Call-3)
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise Short term e-Re-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 4059-SCP (CMIDP), Amount put to tender is Rs. 80.00 Lakhs.
Calendar of events:1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 12-05-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 14-05-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 16-05-2026 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 5)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.
For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-207/KSMCA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga
No.: ACF/Tender-CAMPA/CR-3/2025-26 Date: 05.05.2026
Short-Term e-Tender Notice (Through e-Procurement Portal)
Short-Term Call-3 Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from interested Forest contractors registered in Forest Department as Forest contractors for the year 2026-27 and having experience of growing saplings of various sizes, plantation advance works and having experience of carrying out similar works as put to tender in the Forest Department and having necessary facility for growing of saplings in the limits of the zone where works have to be carried out for implementation of "Formation of Plantation and Mainte nance" mentioned in the annexure, under CAMPA Head of Account, in forest areas coming in the limits of various Forest Zones of Shivamogga Regional Forest Division for the year 2026-27. For further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details of the Tender can be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
1.Last date for submission of e-Tenders: 13.05.2026 up to4.00 PM **2.** Date of opening the Tender: 14.05.2026 at 4.30 PM
Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/16/05/187

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Olo Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor,
Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru 560070.
Phone No: 080-26716046 Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/07/2026-27 Dated: 06.05.2026
KPPP Tender Notice (Single Cover System)
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, **For MLA Grants Works**. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated:22.05.2025 upto 4.00 pm**. Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/556/SSC/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Office of The District Officer,
Minorities Welfare Department, Shivamogga.
1st Floor, Sathyashree Arcade, 5th Parallel Road,Durgigudi.
E-mail: domshimoga@gmail.com Ph.: (08182) 220206
No.: MWDS/F.I.T./C.R.-08/2026-27 Date: 06.05.2026
e-Procurement Short-Term Tender Notification
Short-Term Tender is invited through e-Procurement (KPP Portal) from interested Tenderers for selection of a competent agency for supply of food and other necessary items to A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Residential School/College, M. D. R. Schools/Colleges and Student Hostels functioning in the limits of Shivamogga District Minorities Welfare Department. Details are as below.
Sl. No. 1. Tender No.: MWD/2026-27/IND0128 **Approx. Amount put to Tender :** 457.59 Lakhs. **Commencement date for uploading Tender Application:** 04.05.2026 **Last date for uploading Tender Form:** 19.05.2026 at 5.00 PM
Tender Application Fees: As per E-Procurement (KPPP Portal)
E.M.D. Amount: 6.86 Lakhs
Interested Tenderers should upload in website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and Tender Document and information is available in the said website.
Sd/- District Officer, Minorities Welfare Department, Shivamogga.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/20/05/193

CH CLASSIFIEDS To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ
ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ,ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ-1/ಟೆಂಡರ್-02/2026-27/541 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06-05-2026
ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್)
ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ-4) ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುವದು.
(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 13-05-2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 14-05-2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (3) ಟೆಂಡರನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 15-05-2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (4) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 18-05-2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: **Mitigation- 8443-Deposite Contribution During 2025-26** ವರ್ಕ ಇನಡೆಂಟ್ (1) **PWD/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT32655**
(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ-4) ರಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **e-proc** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ **"https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in"** ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227)** ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/110/26-27 dt. 06.05.2026 ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-562123
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ.: 080-27222135 e-mail: ka.nelmangala.cmc@gmail.com
ಸಂ.: ನಸನೆ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ(ವಿ)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/16/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.05.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ KW 1&2 ರ & KG ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭೆ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ: 149.93 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂರ್ಪಕಿಸುವುದು.
ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ:

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57600	49.96
2	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57593	49.98
3	DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT57599	49.99

ಸಹಿ/- **ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು** ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
DIPR/CP/546/SA/2026-27
ಸಹಿ/- **ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು** ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

QUICK READ

Millions of British voters cast ballots

London

Millions of British voters cast their ballots on Thursday in local and regional elections that are expected to deal a huge blow to Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour Party and renew questions over his ability to govern. Elections for almost 5,000 council seats in England and to the parliaments in Scotland and Wales could signal the beginning of the end of Britain's traditional two-party system if voters opt for populist and nationalist parties rather than the once-dominant Labour and Conservatives. Polls suggest the populist Reform UK of Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage will expand its control of councils in England, and could form the main opposition in Scotland and Wales to the pro-independence Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru. Challenging from the left, the Greens look set to threaten Labour's strongholds in London and other major centres.

Iraq's historic marshes come alive

Chibayish Marshes

After years of drought that left large swathes of Iraq's historic marshes cracked and empty, rising water levels are beginning to revive the wetlands, drawing buffalo herders and fishermen back to areas once abandoned. In Chibayish marshes in southern Iraq, canoes once again glide through waterways that had dried up in recent years, while water buffalo wade through restored marshland and patches of green pasture have reappeared. Some time ago, all our livestock died and there was no water at all," said Haidar Qassem, a farmer raising water buffalo in the central marsh. "Many of our people migrated because of the drought," Qassem said, adding that water had returned this year, livestock numbers were recovering and some families had come back.

US-Iran move closer to temporary deal to halt conflict

The proposed arrangement is expected to be only an interim understanding rather than a comprehensive peace settlement

WASHINGTON

The United States and Iran are moving closer toward a limited and temporary agreement aimed at halting the ongoing conflict between the two nations, according to officials and sources familiar with the negotiations.

However, the proposed arrangement is expected to be only an interim understanding rather than a comprehensive peace settlement, leaving several major disputes unresolved.

Sources revealed on Thursday that the draft framework under discussion focuses primarily on stopping military hostilities and ensuring stability in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. The narrow waterway remains one of the world's most crucial oil shipping routes, and fears of disruptions there had earlier rattled global markets.

The emerging agreement reportedly takes the form of a short-term memorandum instead of a full-scale peace accord. This highlights the continuing mistrust and deep divisions between Washington and Tehran, especially over Iran's nuclear programme. Key disagreements remain regarding the future of Iran's highly enriched uranium stockpiles and the duration for which Tehran would suspend sensitive nuclear activities.

Despite these unresolved issues, both countries appear willing to reduce immediate tensions and avoid a fresh escalation in conflict. Officials involved in the diplomatic

process indicated that the current priority is to establish a stable environment that can pave the way for direct negotiations in the future.

The possibility of reduced tensions has already influenced international financial markets. Asian stock markets traded near record highs on Thursday, while global oil prices recorded sharp declines amid hopes that shipping through the Strait of Hormuz could soon normalise without threats of disruption.

A senior Pakistani official involved in mediation efforts stated that the immediate goal is to secure a permanent end to military confrontation. According to the official, broader and more complex disputes could be addressed later once both sides return to formal diplomatic talks.

The temporary arrangement, if finalised, may provide short-term relief for global energy markets and international trade routes, even though a lasting resolution to the decades-long tensions between the United States and Iran remains uncertain.

US troop cut worries German's Vilseck town residents

They fear economic collapse amid possible withdrawal of thousands of American military personnel from the town

VILSECK

The small Bavarian town of Vilseck is facing growing uncertainty after reports suggested that at least 5,000 American troops could soon be withdrawn from Germany under plans linked to President Donald Trump.

The move is expected to significantly impact the local economy, which has depended heavily on the U.S. military presence since the end of World War Two.

Although officials have not yet formally confirmed which units will be relocated, attention has centred on the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment stationed at Rose Barracks in Vilseck. The regiment is currently the only permanent brigade combat team based in Germany and has long played a major role in supporting the local community through employment and business activity.

Vilseck's newly elected mayor, Thorsten Graedler, expressed serious concern over the potential consequences of the troop withdrawal. According to him, the town's economy is deeply tied to the military base, which provides thousands of jobs and supports businesses including restaurants, pubs, supermarkets, garages, and local service providers.

Graedler explained that over the years, the consistent presence of American soldiers and their families created a strong economic dependence that is now becoming a major vulnerability. He warned that losing the military population could result in significant job losses across the rural region, where alternative sources of employment are limited.

The proposed troop reduction comes as Washington continues to pressure European nations to increase their own defence spending. American leaders have repeatedly argued that European allies have relied too heavily on U.S. military support while underinvesting in their domestic defence capabilities.

Interestingly, discussions about withdrawing the 2nd Cavalry Regiment had already surfaced during Trump's first presidential term. However, those plans were later reversed under former President Joe Biden, allowing the regiment to remain stationed in Germany.

Despite the uncertainty, Mayor Graedler said he still hopes the troop withdrawal plans may not be fully implemented, noting that no official confirmation has yet been issued regarding the removal of the Stryker unit. Meanwhile, the German government stated that the announcement did not come as a major surprise, especially as Berlin has recently increased defence spending to rebuild and modernise its military following years of underinvestment.

Health authorities worldwide race tracing passengers following deadly hantavirus outbreak aboard stranded Antarctic cruise vessel

Global hunt begins after deadly cruise ship virus outbreak

AMSTERDAM

Countries around the world have launched urgent efforts to trace passengers who left the cruise ship MV Hondius after a deadly hantavirus outbreak onboard claimed three lives and raised fears of further international spread of the disease.

The outbreak occurred aboard the expedition cruise vessel MV Hondius, which later became stranded off the coast of Cape Verde. According to the World Health Organization, three people a Dutch couple and a German national died following the outbreak. Eight additional passengers, including a Swiss citizen, are suspected to have contracted the virus.

Health officials are now attempting to locate several passengers whose whereabouts remain unknown after they disembarked from the vessel in different countries. Authorities fear that infected travellers may unknowingly spread the disease further if not identified and isolated quickly.

Among the passengers who left the ship was the wife of a Dutch man who died onboard on April 11. Reports stated that the woman later became seriously ill herself and died before she could return to the Netherlands.

Dutch airline KLM Royal Dutch Airlines confirmed on Wednesday that the woman had been removed from a flight in Johannesburg on April 25 after her medical condition rapidly worsened during travel. According to Dutch broadcaster RTL, a KLM flight attendant who reportedly came into contact with the passenger has now been admitted to a hospital in Amsterdam after showing possible symptoms associated with hantavirus infection.

The Dutch health ministry confirmed that a Dutch woman has been hospitalised and will undergo testing to determine whether she contracted the virus. However, officials did not publicly identify her profession or disclose details regarding possible contacts, citing privacy considerations. A spokesperson for KLM stated that the airline could not comment on individual medical cases due to confidentiality policies.

Hantavirus is a rare but potentially deadly disease generally spread through contact with infected rodents or their droppings. Symptoms can initially resemble flu-like illness but may rapidly progress to severe respiratory complications.

Israeli attack kills son of Hamas leader

CAIRO

An Israeli air strike has killed the son of Hamas' chief negotiator in U.S.-mediated talks over Gaza's future, a senior Hamas official said on Thursday, as leaders of the militant group held talks in Cairo aimed at safeguarding their truce with Israel.

Azzam Al-Hayya, son of Khalil Al-Hayya, succumbed to his injuries on Thursday after being struck in an Israeli attack on Wednesday night, said senior Hamas official Basim Naim. He is the fourth son of Hamas' exiled Gaza chief to have been killed in Israeli attacks.

Hayya, who has seven children, has survived multiple Israeli attempts to kill him. An Israeli strike in Doha last year targeting Hamas leadership killed his son, though Hayya survived.

Two other sons were killed in past Israeli attempts on his life, in Gaza strikes in 2008 and 2014.

Rubio to meet Pope Leo as Trump keeps up attacks on pontiff

VATICAN CITY

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio came to the Vatican on Thursday for a potentially fraught encounter with Pope Leo as President Donald Trump has continued a series of disparaging attacks on the Catholic leader over the Iran war.

Rubio's convoy drove through the central Roman boulevard leading to the Vatican under tight security, arriving at 11:10 am (0910 GMT) for the first visit between the pope and a Trump cabinet official in nearly a year.

The closed-door meeting between Leo and Rubio, who also serves as Trump's national security adviser, is expected to last about a half-hour. Rubio will meet afterwards with the Vatican's top diplomat, Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

Leo, the first U.S. pope, drew Trump's ire after becoming a firm critic of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and the Trump administration's hardline anti-immigration policies.

The president has kept up an unprecedented series of public attacks on the pope in recent weeks, drawing a backlash from Christian leaders across the political spectrum.

On Monday, Trump falsely suggested the pope believed it was okay for Iran to obtain nuclear weapons and said Leo was "endangering a lot of Catholics" by opposing the war.

Leo told journalists after the latest attack that he was spreading the Christian message of peace. The pope also firmly rejected the idea that he supported nuclear weapons, which the Catholic Church teaches are immoral.

The mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel, to preach peace," said the pope. "The Church has spoken out for years against all nuclear arms, on that there is no doubt."

As Rubio arrived at the Vatican, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk was leaving from a meeting with Leo. He told journalists he and the pope discussed how to strengthen international cooperation and generate hope in the world.

"It is still possible that the world does not have to descend into chaos, if good people, people of goodwill, find one another and act in unity," Tusk said, speaking in Polish.

Hezbollah commander killed by Israel in Beirut suburbs

BEIRUT

Israel said on Thursday it had killed a commander of Hezbollah's elite Radwan force in an airstrike on Beirut a day earlier, the first Israeli attack on the Lebanese capital since a ceasefire agreed last month.

The Israeli military said the commander was killed when Israel struck the southern suburbs of Beirut. There was no immediate confirmation from Hezbollah. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz announced the attack in a joint statement on Wednesday.

The strike has raised pressure on the ceasefire that had halted Israeli attacks on Beirut, even as Israeli forces have remained deployed in areas south of the Litani River and continued to carry out strikes in southern Lebanon.

Iran ally Hezbollah has responded to those strikes by firing and launching armed drones towards Israeli soldiers.

The Lebanon ceasefire has underpinned a broader truce in the wider Iran war, with a halt to Israeli strikes in Lebanon being a key Iranian demand in Tehran's negotiations with Washington.

Israel earlier on Wednesday called for residents to evacuate several villages north of the Litani River, which could represent an expansion of Israel's zone of action. Talks between Israel and Lebanon have continued, but have largely been at the ambassador level.

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said on Wednesday that it was premature to talk of any high-level meeting between Lebanon and Israel.

Salam, in comments reported by Lebanon's National News Agency on Wednesday, said shoring up a ceasefire would be the basis for any new negotiations between Lebanese and Israeli government envoys in Washington.

TIE BEYOND DIPLOMATIC FORMALITY

Paraguay Prez lauds friendship with Taiwan, China

TAIPEI

Paraguay and Taiwan share a friendship based on freedom and democracy that extends beyond diplomatic formalities, Paraguayan President Santiago Pena said on Thursday, as China told him to sever ties with Taipei.

His visit comes as China steps up efforts, opens new tab to draw the South American nation away from its longstanding support for Taipei.

The trip is Pena's second visit as president to Taiwan. Paraguay is one of 12 countries that still maintain formal diplomatic relations with the democratically-governed island that is claimed by Beijing.

Speaking in English to university students in Taipei after receiving an honorary doctorate, Pena said Paraguay and Taiwan have an alliance that is based on freedom.

"Paraguay and Taiwan share a friendship built on a solid foundation, democracy, freedom, confidence in institutions, the dignity of hard work," he said.

"Our bilateral relationship

extends far beyond diplomatic formality. It is manifested in concrete actions, tangible achievements, and real opportunities for both of our nations."

Addressing Pena at the same event, Taiwanese Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim mentioned how she had first met and been impressed by him in Washington before he was elected president.

"And I am still extremely impressed by President Pena's passion for serving the people of Paraguay," she added. "President Pena, passion, people, Paraguay, five P's. And plus, a principled partnership with Taiwan makes it 'perfecto.'" In Beijing earlier on Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said Paraguay should "stand on the right side of history" and "sever so-called diplomatic relations with the Taiwan authorities."

"The 'One China' principle is a fundamental norm of international relations and the universal consensus of the international community," Lin said, referring to Beijing's stance that both sides of the Taiwan Strait are part of a single country.

NAME CHANGE

I, **KAIYNATH ABDUL KAREEM**, W/o Mohammed Safari Mushtaq, Resident of No 32/3, Cockburn Road Cross, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru 560051, have changed my name to **KAIYNATH KAREEM,** Vide Affidavit Dated 05.05.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru

BEFORE THE HON'BLE STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, CHENNAI
CMP No.1079/2025 in FA No.1152/2025

Mr. Nithiyanandhan
S/o. Pachiyappan Karaipudhur,
Palladam Circle, Tiruppur
...Petitioner/ Appellant
-Vs-
1.The Chief Executive Officer,
Flipkart Internet (P) Ltd,
Bengaluru-560 103 and 3 others
--Respondents/Respondents

To,
1. The Chief Executive Officer,
Flipkart India (P) Ltd., Vaishnavi Summit,
1 Ground Floor, 7th Main, 80 Feet Road,
3rd Block, Koramangala Industrial Layout,
Bengaluru, Karnataka-560 034
Respondent No.2

Kindly take notice that in the CMP No.1079/2025 in FA.No.1152/2025 for condone delay his Hon'ble State Consumer Disputed Redressal Commission, Chennai has ordered fresh summons to you through Paper Publication returnable by 20.05.2026. Kindly be present on 20.05.2026 at 10.30 a.m before the said Hon'ble State Consumer Disputed Redressal Commission, Chennai in person or through a Pleader. Your appearance by then the matter will heard and decided in your absence. The case stands posted on 20.05.2026.

K.SUDHAKAR &
V.T.SRINIVASAN
Counsel for Petitioner/Applicant

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.200/2026

Petitioners: Smt.Gowramma W/o Late Ramanjinappa Aged about 51 years, Rat Channapura Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
Vis
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura and others.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the son of petitioner by name LATE MANJUNATHA.R S/O LATE RAMANJINAPPA who died on 06.10.2018 at Channapura Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 11.06.2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 06.05.2026

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC
Doddaballapura

Sreeranga, Advocate, Opposite to Court Complex, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town. Date: 06.05.2026

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GANESH M S/o MALLAPPA NANDEMMANAVAR, R/o Dolleshwar, Suraleshwar, Hanagal, Haveri, Karnataka-581102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GANAPATI MALLAPPA NANDEMMANAVAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sanjay Bavikatte S/o B N Rajanna R/o #27, 2ND Main 5th Block, North Seshadripuram, Bangalore Karnataka-560020, have changed the name of my minor son Azaad alias Azadi Devadaru Nanjundaiah to Azadi Cedar Kabir aged 1 year.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

"Teen star Vaibhav ready for test cricket": Cheteshwar Pujara

MUMBAI

Indian batting legend Cheteshwar Pujara believes that fifteen year old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is ready for the ultimate challenge. Pujara emphasized that while the young star is currently dominating the shorter format, the longest version of the game remains the true test of a player's character.

Cheteshwar Pujara backed teenage prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for Test cricket, praising his temperament following a stellar 2026 IPL season

Sooryavanshi has become the talk of the town during the ongoing 2026 IPL season. Playing for the Rajasthan Royals, the left-handed prodigy has smashed 404 runs in just ten innings. This explosive performance has led many fans to demand his immediate inclusion in India's national T20 squad. However, Pujara argues that young talents should not limit themselves to white-ball cricket.

"If Vaibhav has the opportunity and the skill, he should definitely play Tests," Pujara stated. He explained that Test matches build the temperament and respect for the game that every cricketer needs. While acknowledging that specialists like Shreyas Iyer are vital for specific formats, he insists that the red-ball game should be the goal for every aspiring athlete.

Now working as a cricket expert, Pujara is using his vast experience to break down the game for viewers. He enjoys sharing stories from the pitch to help fans and young players understand the technical side of batting and bowling strategies. For Pujara, the message is clear, talent like Sooryavanshi's is rare, and it deserves to be nurtured on the grandest stage of all.

Dropped catches cost Punjab victory against Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer was left reflecting on missed opportunities after his team suffered a 33-run defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad. Despite a historic performance from a young star, Iyer admitted that poor fielding proved to be the deciding factor in the high-scoring match.

Hyderabad set a massive total of 235 runs, but the story could have been different. Punjab fielders dropped key batters Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen early in their innings.

Both players took full advantage of these lifelines, smashing half-centuries that pushed the game out of reach. "We weren't able to take catches," a frustrated Iyer noted after the game. He pointed out that while the team started the season strong, they cannot afford such sloppy mistakes if they want to stay competitive.

The match wasn't without highlights for Punjab. Cooper Connolly played a breathtaking innings, scoring an unbeaten 107 runs. At just 19, he became the youngest overseas player to hit an IPL century. Iyer praised the teenager's fearless mindset under pressure and also commended Yuzvendra Chahal for his steady bowling on a difficult pitch.

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer blamed poor fielding and dropped catches for their 33-run loss to Hyderabad, despite Cooper Connolly's historic century.

However, a top-order collapse left Connolly with too much to do alone. Chasing a giant target, Punjab finished on 202 runs. While the batting showed heart, the skipper insisted that the team must improve their consistency and fielding standards immediately. For Hyderabad, the win was a clinical display of how to punish an opponent's mistakes and control the game.

India to host first World Yogasana Championship

AHMEDABAD

India is preparing to make history by hosting the first-ever World Yogasana Championship in Ahmedabad next month. From June 4 to 8, the TransStadia arena will welcome elite athletes from over forty countries for a global competition that blends ancient tradition with modern athletic spirit.

The event, organized by Yogasana Bharat, aims to elevate yoga from a spiritual practice to a globally recognized sport. Official trials were recently held in Haryana to select the best talent for the Indian national team. These athletes will now undergo intensive training at a coaching camp in Ahmedabad to prepare for the world stage. Competitors will be judged on their precision, balance, and flexibility across various categories, including artistic and rhythmic yogasana.

Udit Sheth, President of Yogasana Bharat, stated that this championship is a "defining moment" for the sport. He noted that the vision, supported by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is to introduce yoga to the world's youth and eventually see it featured in the Olympic Games. By creating a competitive environment, India hopes to show that yogasana is a gateway to a healthy and disciplined lifestyle.

WORLD YOGASANA CHAMPIONSHIP
AMDAVAD 2026, INDIA

PSG beat Bayern to reach Champions League final

MUNICH

Paris Saint-Germain has secured a spot in their second consecutive UEFA Champions League final after a tense battle against Bayern Munich. Despite a 1-1 draw in the second leg, the French giants advanced with a thrilling 6-5 total score across both matches.

PSG started with lightning speed, scoring just three minutes into the game. Ousmane Dembele found the back of the net after a perfect pass from teammate Khvicha Kvaratskhelia. This early goal put heavy pressure on Bayern, who spent the rest of the match desperately searching for a way back. The German side felt cheated when the referee denied their loud appeals for a penalty after a close-call handball in the box.

Throughout the match, both goalkeepers performed heroics. Manuel Neuer made several brilliant saves to keep Bayern in the hunt, while PSG's Matvey Safonov blocked a dangerous shot from Jamal Musiala. Bayern's star striker Harry Kane finally scored late in the second half with a powerful strike, marking his 14th goal of the tournament. However, his effort came too late to change the final outcome.

Under the guidance of coach Luis Enrique, PSG showed a new level of defensive toughness to hold off Bayern's late attacks. The defending champions will now travel to Budapest for a massive final showdown against Arsenal. After winning the trophy last season, the Parisians are now just one win away from keeping their crown as the kings of Europe.

STAR BOWLERS RETURN TO NZ SQUAD

WELLINGTON

New Zealand has announced an ambitious nineteen-man squad for their upcoming Test tours, featuring the highly anticipated return of fast bowlers Kyle Jamieson and William O'Rourke. The team is preparing for a historic one-off match against Ireland in Belfast followed by a major three-game series in England.

Jamieson is back in the Test lineup for the first time in over two years. The towering bowler has spent a long time recovering from a serious back injury and was recently eased back into action through domestic matches. O'Rourke also returns from his own injury layoff, strengthening a pace attack that includes stars like Matt Henry and Ben Sears.

The squad features some fresh faces as well. All-rounder Dean Foxcroft earned his first call-up after a string of impressive performances in local cricket. Meanwhile, veteran batter Henry Nicholls has been recalled following a strong domestic season. Former captain Kane Williamson also joins the group, providing vital experience for the challenging English conditions.

The tour begins on May 27 in Belfast, marking the first time New Zealand will play a Test match on Irish soil. While the Ireland game is a standalone fixture, the following matches in England will be part of the World Test Championship. The team will be without Michael Bracewell, who is taking a break from the long format, and Jacob Duffy, who is staying home for the birth of his child. This tour represents a vital chance for the Kiwis to climb the global rankings.

Gujarat sports initiative creates new national champions

GANDHINAGAR

On World Athletics Day, Gujarat is celebrating the incredible impact of Khel Mahakumbh. Launched in 2010, this massive sports program has turned dreams into careers for thousands of young people. By providing a professional platform, it has bridged the gap between small villages and international podiums.

This year's state-level event in Nadiad saw over 9,300 athletes compete in nearly 400 events, including sprinting and javelin. Notably, participation was evenly split between boys and girls, showing a growing passion for sports across the state. Local legends like "Golden Girl" Sarita Gayakwad and Murali Gavit are proof that this training ground produces world-class talent. Beyond winning medals and gear, these athletes are building discipline and breaking barriers, ensuring Gujarat remains a powerhouse of fitness and sporting excellence.

Junior hockey teams ready for Australia clash

BHOPAL

Hockey India has officially announced the twenty-four-member squads for the upcoming Under-18 Men's and Women's series against Australia. This high-stakes tournament will be held at the SAI Central Centre in Bhopal from May 15 to 20, serving as a vital warm-up for the Asia Cup in Japan later this month.

The final players were chosen after a week of intense training and testing. Forward Ketan Kushwaha has been appointed as the captain for the Men's team, while Sweety Kujur will lead the Women's side. Both teams have been trimmed down from a larger group of forty-two players to ensure only the most fit and tactically sharp athletes take the field.

Legendary former players are guiding these young stars. Sardar Singh, who mentors the Men's team, believes playing against a fast-paced Australian side is the perfect way to test the boys' discipline. Meanwhile, former captain Rani is coaching the Women's team. She described the four-match series as a "dress rehearsal" that will show exactly where the players stand before they head to the international stage.

The series is expected to draw large crowds in Bhopal as fans gather to see the future of Indian hockey. For these teenagers, it is more than just a game, it is a golden opportunity to prove they can handle the pressure of international competition. With expert coaching and tough opponents, the stage is set for an exciting week of world-class junior hockey.

Indian women archers stun S.Korea in Shanghai

SHANGHAI

The Indian women's recurve team created history at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 by defeating the legendary South Korean team to reach the final. The stunning 5-1 semifinal victory guarantees India at least a silver medal and marks a rare upset against the ten-time Olympic champions.

The trio of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, and young Kumkum Mohod showed incredible nerves of steel. After taking an early lead, they finished the match with a perfect streak of three bullseyes to knock out the top-seeded Koreans. India will now face China in the gold medal match this Sunday. "It was a dominant performance," noted spectators as the Indian women outshined the reigning world champions in a high-pressure deciding set.

While the women celebrated, it was a difficult day for the rest of the Indian contingent. The men's recurve team suffered a surprising early exit after losing to Bangladesh. Meanwhile, India's usually dominant compound archers struggled across the board. The men's compound team narrowly missed out on a bronze medal after a tense shoot-off against China, and the women's compound team fell in the quarterfinals to Turkey.

Despite the setbacks in other events, the spotlight remains firmly on the recurve women. Their ability to take down the world's most successful archery nation has sent a wave of excitement through the sport. As they prepare for the final against the home favorites, China, the Indian team is proving they are serious contenders for the upcoming international season.

Mumbai to launch first Women's T20 League

MUMBAI

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has announced a landmark moment for local cricket with the launch of the inaugural T20 Mumbai Women's League. The tournament will run alongside the fourth season of the men's league from June 1 to 13 at the historic Wankhede Stadium, creating a massive double-header for fans.

This new competition aims to provide a high-profile stage for female athletes. Big names like Sayali Satghare and Saima Thakor will feature alongside teenage sensation Ira Jadhav, who recently became the most expensive player at the auction. MCA President Ajinkya Naik stated that hosting both events together reflects the city's commitment to building a more inclusive and diverse cricket ecosystem.

The men's side remains equally star-studded, featuring global icons such as Suryakumar Yadav, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Ajinkya Rahane. For many young stars, playing at the Wankhede is a dream come true.

League Chairman Rajdip Gupta noted that the tournament will be broadcast nationwide on Star Sports and streamed on JioHotstar, giving local talent invaluable exposure to a massive audience.

England star Lucy Staniforth set to retire

BIRMINGHAM

Aston Villa midfielder Lucy Staniforth has announced she will retire from professional football at the end of this season. The 33-year-old is ending a brilliant 16-year career that saw her rise from a teenage talent at Sunderland to an international star.

Since joining Villa in 2023, the Yorkborn playmaker helped the club reach its highest league finish. Despite facing tough injury setbacks, including major knee surgeries, her leadership remained unmatched. Reflecting on her journey, the Lioness, who earned 17 caps for England, shared that she feels "super-content" to start a new chapter.

Fans now have one final chance to cheer for the midfield maestro. Staniforth leaves a lasting legacy of resilience and skill, moving into the "big, wide world" after an unforgettable run on the pitch.

Batters on fire as SRH top table

HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins has hailed his team's "fearless" batting unit after a dominant 33-run victory over Punjab Kings propelled them to the top of the IPL 2026 standings. Cummins credited the group's aggressive mindset for setting a massive total that proved too much for the opposition.

Batting first, Hyderabad posted a towering 235 runs, thanks to blistering half-centuries from Heinrich Klaasen and Ishan Kishan. While both players benefited from dropped catches, they made the most of their luck to dismantle the Punjab bowling attack. Cummins jokingly admitted he was tempted to stay on the sidelines after seeing the team win so consistently under stand-in captain Ishan Kishan earlier this season. "The batters have been on fire, so you don't have to do too much," Cummins noted with a smile. Despite the loss, the match featured a historic moment for Punjab as young Australian Cooper Connolly smashed an unbeaten 107. At just 19, he became the youngest overseas player to score an IPL century.

-114.00 PTS SENSEX 77,844.52 | -4.30 PTS NIFTY 24,326.65 | -114.00 PAISE USD/INR 93.886 | +₹3211 GOLD 1,53,173.14/10GM | +₹81.54 SILVER 2,659.61/10GM

QUICK READ

Apple invests ₹100 crore for India's sustainability

New Delhi

Apple has committed Rs100 crore toward environmental initiatives in India, strengthening its sustainability goals and clean energy transition. The company is partnering with Clean Max to create more than 150 megawatts of renewable energy capacity across the country. Apple said the additional clean power generated would be enough to supply electricity to nearly 1,50,000 Indian households for an entire year. The investment aims to reduce carbon emissions and support India's growing renewable energy infrastructure. Apple also plans to expand energy efficiency measures and encourage greener operations within its supply chain. The initiative reflects the company's broader commitment to achieving carbon neutrality and promoting sustainable development in key global markets worldwide.

Instagram removes fake accounts in massive Purge 2026

New Delhi

Meta-owned Instagram reportedly removed millions of bot and inactive accounts in 2026 in a major cleanup dubbed "Great Purge of 2026" by users. The action caused sudden drops in follower counts for celebrities, influencers, and brands. Reports suggested influencer Kylie Jenner lost 14 million followers, though Meta clarified that only inactive accounts were removed and genuine users were unaffected. A company spokesperson said the process is routine and aims to improve authenticity and reduce fake engagement driven by bots inflating likes and followers. The purge sparked widespread reactions, with users sharing screenshots of declining numbers and joking that no account, including Instagram's official handle, was spared in the cleanup drive.

NITI Aayog releases 'School Education Roadmap' India

New Delhi

NITI Aayog has released a comprehensive report titled 'School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement', offering a decade-long assessment of school education across access, infrastructure, equity, inclusion, and learning outcomes. The report proposes 13 recommendations, including 8 systemic reforms such as composite schools, governance strengthening, teacher development, digital learning expansion, and inclusion initiatives, along with 5 academic reforms focusing on pedagogy, assessment, vocational education, ECCE, and AI integration. Based on UDISE+ 2024-25, PARAKH, NAS, and ASER data, it highlights improvements in infrastructure, digital access, enrolment equity. Covering 14.71 lakh schools and 24.69 crore students, it also outlines 33 phased implementation pathways across all governance levels.

'India-Vietnam tie boosts trade growth outlook'

The partnership upgrade expected to boost trade, critical minerals access, exports, and supply-chain resilience significantly, says PHDCCI

NEW DELHI

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has said that the elevation of India–Vietnam relations to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership will significantly strengthen trade, investment flows, and supply-chain resilience between the two countries.

The upgrade follows the visit of Vietnam President To Lam to India, during which both sides agreed on a broad framework to deepen cooperation across critical sectors. Industry leaders said the partnership is expected to improve India's access to critical inputs, while also expanding export opportunities and supporting long-term economic growth.

According to industry representatives, the agreement aligns closely with India's flagship initiatives such as Make in India and Digital India, while also supporting semiconductor development, electronics manufacturing, and pharmaceutical exports. Cooperation in rare earths and critical minerals is expected to play a key role in strengthening supply chains for electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, defence manufacturing, and advanced electronics.

The partnership also includes increased collaboration in artificial intelligence, information technology, and semiconductor ecosystems, which is expected to enhance India's position in global digital value chains. Sectors such as agriculture, tourism, aviation, urban infrastructure, and smart city development are also likely to benefit from expanded cooperation.

The two countries have set a bilateral trade target of $25 billion by 2030 and signed multiple memoranda of understanding covering areas such as rare earths, pharmaceuticals, electronics, digital payments, education, and urban development.

Expected outcomes

- India-Vietnam upgrade boosts trade outlook
- Enhanced partnership strengthens supply chains globally
- Cooperation expands semiconductors, AI, electronics sectors
- Bilateral trade target set $25 billion
- Rare earths deal supports green industries

Industry leaders including Rajeev Juneja and Dr. Ranjeet Mehta said the partnership will improve connectivity, ease of doing business, and regulatory alignment, further strengthening India's Act East Policy and enhancing long-term industrial collaboration.

Vedanta shares fall after Citi cuts rating, target price

MUMBAI

Vedanta Limited saw its shares fall over 3 percent after brokerage firm Citi Research downgraded the stock from 'buy' to 'sell' and cut its target price to Rs 265, citing concerns over zinc prices and dividend policy changes.

The brokerage said the company's earnings are heavily dependent on its zinc business, which contributes more than 90 percent of its attributable EBITDA. It warned that any further weakness in zinc prices could significantly impact profitability and overall financial performance.

Citi also flagged uncertainty around Vedanta's revised capital allocation and dividend framework. The company is no longer bound by its earlier dividend distribution policy, raising concerns among analysts about future cash payouts and shareholder returns. Vedanta has historically been popular with income-focused investors due to its strong dividend track record.

According to Citi, the risk-reward profile at current London Metal Exchange price levels appears unfavourable, suggesting limited upside for the stock from present valuations.

Following the downgrade, Vedanta shares were trading at Rs 305.80, down Rs 10.60 during intraday trade. Despite recent volatility, the stock has shown mixed performance trends, gaining in the short term but declining sharply over the past month and six months.

Citi downgrades Vedanta to sell, citing weak zinc outlook, dividend policy changes, and limited upside, cutting target price to ₹265

The stock has remained under pressure due to broader weakness in metals markets and concerns over global demand conditions. Analysts say investor sentiment is also being influenced by uncertainty in commodity cycles and corporate restructuring decisions within the group.

Overall, Citi's revised outlook highlights caution on both commodity pricing risks and corporate policy shifts, which together could weigh on Vedanta's near-term earnings visibility.

Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace is now valued at $1.1 billion after raising $60 million in fresh global funding round

SKYROOT AEROSPACE BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST SPACE TECH UNICORN

NEW DELHI

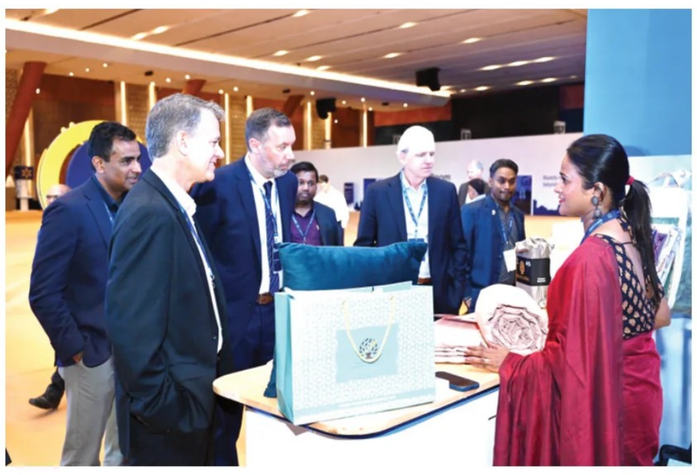
Skyroot Aerospace has become India's first space-tech unicorn after raising $60 million in a new funding round led by existing investors Sherpalo Ventures and Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC.

The fresh capital has pushed the Hyderabad-based startup's valuation to $1.1 billion, more than doubling from its 2023 valuation of about $519 million.

The round also saw participation from investors including BlackRock, Arkam Ventures, Playbook Partners, Greenko Group founders, Shanghvi Family Office, and others. Some investors were existing backers, while Playbook Partners and Shanghvi Family Office joined as new participants.

Company CEO Pawan Kumar Chandana said the funds will support scaling up launch operations, expanding manufacturing capacity, and advancing the development of Vikram-2, a next-generation rocket designed to carry heavier payloads into orbit using an advanced cryogenic upper stage. The company is also preparing for the upcoming launch of Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket. Skyroot Aerospace previously demonstrated its capabilities with the 2022 Vikram-S suborbital mission, which validated key launch technologies. Vikram-1 is expected to mark its entry into commercial orbital launch services.

Industry experts said the milestone highlights growing global investor confidence in India's private space sector and strengthens the country's ambition to expand its share in the global space economy over the next decade. The company's total funding now exceeds $160 million, or roughly Rs 1,500 crore.



Walmart sees India major global opportunity

NEW DELHI

Walmart President and CEO has said that India represents one of the most dynamic opportunities in global commerce today, highlighting the country's growing role in international supply chains and manufacturing.

Speaking at the second edition of the 'Walmart Growth Summit–India 2026', Furner said the company has already sourced more than $40 billion worth of goods from India. He added that Walmart is focused on strengthening supplier capabilities, improving compliance and quality standards, and helping Indian manufacturers scale up for global exports.

He said these efforts are aimed at expanding economic opportunities and connecting Indian businesses with customers worldwide. The summit brought together more than 5,000 participants, including exporters, MSMEs, digital-first brands, and supply chain partners.

Walmart's supplier development initiative, Vriddhi Supplier Development Programme, has trained over 115,000 micro, small, and medium enterprises since its launch in 2019. The programme provides digital skills, business training, and access to new markets, with a target of supporting 170,000 MSMEs by 2028.

Flipkart Group CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy said technology and digital commerce are helping millions of Indian small businesses, artisans, and entrepreneurs access new opportunities. He highlighted initiatives such as Flipkart Samarth and Walmart Vriddhi as key enablers of inclusive growth.

Company leaders said Indian businesses are increasingly becoming part of global supply chains, with rising interest in exporting through Walmart Marketplace to markets such as the United States. The focus remains on building stronger manufacturing capabilities and expanding India's role in global commerce networks.

RBI signals flexibility in future inflation target framework

NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta indicated that India could consider modifying its inflation target and tolerance band in the future if the country continues to witness a favourable balance between economic growth and inflation. However, she emphasised that the existing framework remains appropriate given ongoing global economic uncertainty and volatility.

Gupta said India's inflation-targeting system has performed well over the past decade, delivering robust growth along with lower and more stable inflation. She noted that if this trend strengthens further, policymakers may eventually review the current inflation target and its flexibility band.

The government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, recently retained the inflation target framework for another five years through March 2031. Under this system, the RBI is mandated to maintain headline consumer price inflation at 4 percent with a tolerance band of plus or minus 2 percent.

Gupta explained that the 4 percent target was initially recommended by the RBI Expert Committee in 2014 after studies suggested that this level best balanced economic growth and price stability. She also pointed out that advanced economies such as the United States and Japan generally maintain lower inflation targets around 2 percent, while emerging market economies often operate within a 2.5 to 4 percent range.

LPG production stable despite refinery maintenance turnaround

NEW DELHI

India's largest domestic-market refinery, Reliance Industries' 33-million-tonne-per-annum Jamnagar plant, will undergo a scheduled four-week maintenance shutdown later this month.

The Petroleum Ministry, however, said the temporary closure will not disrupt supplies of LPG, petrol, diesel, or aviation turbine fuel because refinery maintenance schedules are being coordinated nationwide to avoid simultaneous outages.

Officials said the shutdown will begin only after Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery resumes operations following its own maintenance turnaround.

The government believes domestic LPG production will remain stable because not all processing units at Reliance's refinery will be offline during the maintenance period.

India's energy sector is already facing pressure from the ongoing West Asia conflict and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for crude oil, LNG, and LPG imports. India imports nearly 60% of its LPG needs, and about 90 percent of those imports usually pass through the Strait, making household cooking fuel particularly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

To manage shortages, authorities have prioritised LPG supplies for households while restricting industrial and commercial consumption. Refineries are also maximising domestic LPG production and sourcing additional cargoes from countries including the United States, Australia, and Russia. Government officials said India remains self-sufficient in petrol and diesel production and continues to maintain adequate fuel availability despite geopolitical tensions.

Officials also noted that domestic refiners have increased LPG output by roughly forty percent since the conflict began, helping reduce dependence on imports. Export duties on diesel and aviation turbine fuel have additionally discouraged overseas sales, ensuring more supplies remain available for Indian consumers and sectors during the crisis

PROFIT DIP

Bharat forge profit drops despite revenue rise

MUMBAI

Bharat Forge Ltd, the Pune-based forging and engineering major, posted a consolidated profit after tax of Rs 233.44 crore for the January–March quarter, down from Rs 282.62 crore in the same period last year. The decline came despite a robust increase in demand across automotive, industrial, and defence-related components.

Revenue from operations rose 17.53% year-on-year to Rs 4,528.04 crore in Q4 FY26, compared with Rs 3,852.6 crore in the corresponding quarter of FY25.

The growth was supported by higher volumes and improved performance in key domestic and export markets.

Operational performance remained steady, with earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation increasing 14.21% to Rs 778 crore, up from Rs 681 crore a year earlier. The EBITDA margin also improved marginally to 17.81 percent from 17.68%, indicating stable cost management despite market pressures.

The company's board recommended a final dividend of Rs 6.50 per equity share of Rs 2 face value for FY26, subject to shareholder approval at the upcoming annual general meeting. If approved, the payout will be made on or after August 14, 2026.

Chairman and Managing Director Baba Kalyani said the company secured fresh orders worth Rs 4,814 crore during FY26, including defence contracts worth Rs 2,816 crore. He also said the company has begun restructuring its steel business and expects completion by the end of 2027.

Cricket fever delays Samantha's big movie magic

Fans of superstar Samantha Ruth Prabhu will have to wait just a little longer to see her back on the big screen. Her highly anticipated new movie, Maa Inti Bangaaram, has officially moved its release date. Originally set to hit theaters on May 15, the film will now arrive on June 19, 2026.

The reason for the sudden change? It is all about the love of cricket. With the Indian Premier League (IPL) currently in full swing, the producers decided to step back and let the sport take center stage. The creators explained that they want fans of the Sunrisers Hyderabad team to enjoy the matches without missing out on the cinema experience. They believe the Telugu states should focus on cheering for their home team before diving into this new story.

Maa Inti Bangaaram is an exciting family action drama. Not only does Samantha star in the lead role, but she is also producing the project alongside her husband, filmmaker Raj Nidimoru, and Himank Duvvuru. The film is directed by the talented Nandini Reddy.

The movie features a great cast, including Diganth, Gulshan Devaiah, and Sree Mukhi. Even though the delay might be disappointing for some, the team promises that the wait will be worth it. By moving to June, the film hopes to capture the full attention of families looking for a summer hit once the cricket excitement finally settles down. Stay tuned for June!

Old photo of Stars goes viral online

The South Indian film industry is currently mourning the heartbreaking loss of legendary producer RB Choudary. The respected filmmaker recently passed away following a tragic road accident in Rajasthan. As friends and family gather to say their final goodbyes, a special memory has surfaced online to remind everyone of his incredible legacy.

A rare, vintage photograph featuring Tamil cinema's biggest icons has gone viral across social media platforms. The emotional image captures a younger Thalapathy Vijay and Ajith Kumar standing together. They are joined by the late RB Choudary, actor Jiiva, and famous director KS Ravi Kumar. The picture was taken years ago during a special cinema event where both Vijay and Ajith appeared as guest stars. For many fans, seeing Vijay and Ajith in the same frame alongside the veteran producer has sparked deep emotions. RB Choudary was a giant in the movie business, known for supporting and launching many successful careers. Seeing him surrounded by the stars he helped shine has touched the hearts of thousands of netizens.

While the industry feels a deep void without him, this viral photo serves as a beautiful tribute to a man who brought so many people together.

Netflix unveils intense trailer of Saif Ali Khan's Kartavya

Netflix has finally unveiled the intense trailer for Kartavya, an upcoming crime drama starring Saif Ali Khan. Produced by Gauri Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment and directed by Pulkit, the film promises a gritty look at the life of a man torn between his job and his loved ones.

In this movie, Saif plays Pawan, a police officer who finds himself in deep trouble. The story begins when a journalist is shot while under his protection. As his bosses put pressure on him to find the killers, Pawan uncovers a dangerous web of lies and power. Things get even worse when his own family is threatened because of a mistake made by his brother. Pawan must figure out how to be a good cop while keeping his family safe, knowing that every choice he makes has a high price.

Saif Ali Khan shared that he was drawn to the role because it deals with "uncomfortable spaces" and hard decisions. He mentioned that playing a character with so much internal conflict was a thrilling experience. Director Pulkit added that the film explores the "grey areas" of life, where there are no easy answers.

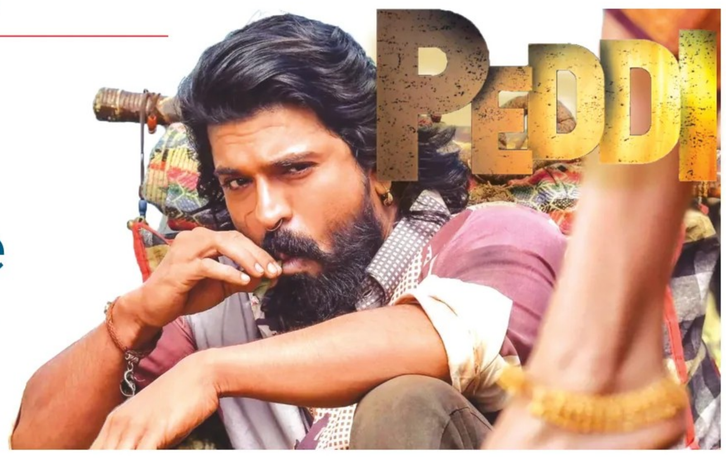
The movie features a talented cast, including Rasika Dugal and Sanjay Mishra. Kartavya is described as a deep, emotional story that looks beyond simple crime to see the human heart behind it. Fans won't have to wait long to see the mystery unfold, as the film is set to premiere on Netflix on May 15.

Prakash Raj joins Jr NTR's action epic

The excitement surrounding Jr NTR's next big movie, Dragon, has reached a new level. Industry sources have confirmed that the versatile and often outspoken actor Prakash Raj has officially joined the cast. This pan-India project, directed by the visionary Prashanth Neel, is already being hailed as one of the most significant cinematic ventures currently in production. Prakash Raj is widely known for his incredible ability to transform into any character, from terrifying villains to beloved father figures. His addition to the team is expected to bring a unique intensity to the film's story. While the specific details of his role are being kept a secret, insiders suggest he will play a powerful character that is central to the movie's plot. His presence often adds a layer of prestige and gravitas to big-budget films.

This news comes at a time when Prakash Raj has been a frequent topic of public discussion due to his vocal opinions on social and political issues. However, his talent as a performer remains undisputed. Fans are eager to see the on-screen chemistry between Jr NTR and Prakash Raj, a duo that has delivered memorable performances together in the past.

Ram Charan's new movie ready for screens



Excitement is building as Mega Power Star Ram Charan finishes the final touches on his upcoming film, Peddi. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, this rural sports drama is one of the most awaited projects of the year.

In a big update today, the makers confirmed that the final editing of the movie is now complete.

With the "final cut" locked, the film is officially ready to be sent to the censor board for approval. The production team shared that everything is moving smoothly behind the scenes, ensuring there are no delays before the big day. Fans can mark their calendars, as the pan-Indian movie is set to hit theaters worldwide on June 4, 2026.

Ram Charan stars alongside Janhvi Kapoor, who plays the female lead.

The movie also features a strong supporting cast, including legends like Shiva Rajkumar and Boman Irani. Adding to the hype, the legendary A.R. Rahman has composed the music, making the soundtrack highly anticipated.

As the release date nears, the team at Vriddhi Cinemas is preparing a massive promotional campaign.

Supporters are eagerly waiting for the first songs and the official trailer to drop. Sources say the producers plan to release these updates in stages to keep the energy high.

For now, the hard work in the editing room is done, and the stage is set for a grand cinematic experience. This sports drama promises to bring a powerful, emotional story to audiences across the country very soon.

Halle Berry finishes filming new movie fleur

Academy Award winner Halle Berry has officially finished shooting her latest film, Fleur, in the heart of Paris.

The actress celebrated the end of production on the erotic drama by sharing special moments from the French capital. This project marks a bold new chapter in her career, blending intense drama with a glamorous European backdrop.

Berry posted photos online showing her raising a champagne glass by the Seine River with director Ellie Foumbi and producer Holly Jeter. She described the filming process as a "once in a lifetime journey." The star also praised her "fearless" director and the hard-working crew that brought the story to life over the past few months. Production for the movie originally began in Paris back in March.In Fleur, Berry plays a New York housewife who decides to leave her thirty-year marriage behind.

Alia Bhatt returns to Cannes Red Carpet

Bollywood sensation Alia Bhatt is heading back to the French Riviera. The actress has confirmed she will attend the prestigious Cannes Film Festival for the second year in a row. Joining fellow icons Aishwarya Rai and Aditi Rao Hydari, Alia will represent India as a global brand ambassador from May 12 to May 23.

For Alia, returning to the iconic red carpet feels like an "even bigger celebration" than her debut last year.

She shared her excitement about the event's unique energy, describing it as a powerful platform for sisterhood. Alia noted that it is a privilege to be part of a journey that champions female voices and women's empowerment on a global stage.

Aditi Rao Hydari also expressed her joy, stating that Cannes is about more than just fashion, it is about owning your individuality with confidence.

The festival continues to highlight women's worth, and this year, actress Gillian Anderson will serve as a juror for a special award dedicated to female filmmakers.

The general manager of the beauty brand representing the stars noted that having Indian beauty and creativity on the world's most famous carpet is a testament to how far the industry has come.

This year's lineup is truly international, featuring stars like Jane Fonda and Eva Longoria alongside our Bollywood favorites.

The Tamil film industry is buzzing with excitement over a massive new project. Legends Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan are joining forces for a movie directed by Nelson Dilipkumar. While fans are thrilled to see the two stars together, it is the film's staggering budget and salaries that have truly stunned the movie world.

Reports suggest that the total pay for the stars and director alone has reached nearly ₹500 crore. Kamal Haasan is expected to earn around ₹220 crore through a profit-sharing deal. Meanwhile, Rajinikanth's fee is estimated to be between ₹180 crore and ₹200 crore. Director Nelson, fresh off recent hits, is reportedly charging ₹70 crore.

This massive spending happens even before the cost of the crew or filming is added.

Interestingly, the actual cost to produce the movie is estimated between ₹150 crore and ₹180 crore. When you combine the production costs with the high salaries, this project, backed by Red Giant Movies, becomes the most expensive Tamil film ever made.

It has been decades since these two icons shared the screen in a lead capacity. Combining their legendary status with a top-tier director has created a level of hype never seen before. Industry experts believe the film will break many box office records when it finally arrives.

For now, the sheer scale of the investment shows just how much faith the producers have in these two cinema giants to deliver a global hit.

Cinema icons set for record breaking movie

RDJ: Online fame is no real art

Marvel legend Robert Downey Jr. has sparked a major debate by criticizing the idea that social media influencers are the "stars of the future." Speaking on a recent podcast, the Iron Man actor called the claim "absolute horseshit," arguing that true stardom requires more than just filming oneself on a phone.

Downey expressed concern that digital platforms make it too easy to become famous without doing traditional creative work. While he doesn't see the technology as a negative thing, he hopes younger generations will choose more meaningful paths. He wants to see youth focus on building, making, and educating themselves rather than chasing "self-aggrandizing" online fame. The actor shared a personal story about his 14-year-old son, who briefly got caught up in the influencer world by asking for donations while gaming. Downey compared some digital creators to "hucksters of the information age," noting how the culture can feel almost like a religion. Despite his strong views, he admitted that he has met several influencers during movie promotions who are grounded and accomplished people. With over 58 million followers on Instagram, Downey stays active online but says he avoids being "consumed" by social media. He recalled how the bond between actors and audiences changed when Iron Man first launched at Comic-Con.

AAMIR KHAN sings classic hits at screening

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan turned a movie screening into a musical celebration. The actor attended a special showing of the upcoming film Daadi Ki Shaadi, featuring Kapil Sharma and Neetu Kapoor. After the movie ended, the atmosphere became lively as Aamir joined the cast and crew for an impromptu singing session that has now gone viral. Videos from the event show Aamir having a wonderful time. In one clip, he delighted everyone by singing his famous hit "Aati Kya Khandala" alongside actress Sadia Khateeb. He didn't stop there, the actor also joined comedian Kapil Sharma to sing "Papa Kehte Hain," a nostalgic favorite from his early career. Aamir, who has been taking classical singing lessons for two years.

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